OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

January 1997 For United States of America Vol. 40, No. 1

All Sorts of People Will Be Saved

1 Jehovah wills "that all sorts of men should be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth." (1 Tim. 2:4) Although people are influenced to some extent by heredity, background, and environment, they have free will and can choose individually how they will use their life. They can do what is good and live, or they can do what is bad and perish. (Matt. 7:13, 14) How does this understanding affect our view of the people we approach with the Kingdom good news?

2 We should not presume that a person's interest in the truth is dictated by factors such as national or cultural background or by social position. The truth can appeal to those with either limited or advanced education, to those involved in political pursuits, and to professionals, atheists, agnostics, and even to notorious wrongdoers. People from all backgrounds and social levels have changed from their former course of conduct and are now in line for life in God's new world. (Prov. 11:19) Therefore, we should not hesitate to approach people in all walks of life with the Kingdom message.

3 **Consider These Examples:** A man had planned to kill his stepfather but did not. Later he decided to commit suicide but could not. After he was imprisoned for stealing and drug trafficking, his marriage failed. Today this person is making an honest living and is enjoying a happy marriage as well as a fine relationship with his stepfather. What made the difference? He studied the Bible with Jehovah's Witnesses and applied what he learned. Jehovah did not consider him to be beyond redemption.

4 A young woman's fame as a TV actress did not bring her happiness. But having become impressed by the fine moral conduct of the Witnesses, she accepted a Bible study, and she was soon helping others to learn about the Kingdom good news. Everywhere she went in the door-to-door ministry she was recognized, but she happily explained that she wanted to be known as one of Jehovah's Witnesses rather than as an actress.

5 When a Witness arranged for a Bible study with a *Watchtower* subscriber, a neighbor heard about it and attended the study. The neighbor immediately recognized the truth for which she had been searching! She and her husband canceled a divorce decree they had been granted and made peace. She was deep into astrology and was attached to a spiritistic cult, but she readily threw away expensive books and everything else she owned that was associated with demonism. She soon started attending meetings and talking to relatives and friends about her newfound faith. Now she witnesses enthusiastically to others.

6 We ought not to prejudge anyone. Rather, let us zealously share the good news with people everywhere. We have every reason to be confident that Jehovah, who "sees what the heart is," will become the "Savior of all sorts of men."—1 Sam. 16:7; 1 Tim. 4:10.

We "Preach the Word"

1 True to the Bible's description of "the last days," most people today have only "a form of godly devotion." (2 Tim. 3:1, 5) This is because religious leaders have failed to give genuine spiritual guidance to their flocks. The clergy of Christendom do not advocate the Bible. They prefer to parrot the vain teachings of philosophers and theologians or to propound social and political issues rather than preach the Word of God. Many religious leaders do not believe the Bible. They feel it is antiquated, and so they perversely promote the theory of evolution instead of the Bible's teaching about a Grand Creator. Most clergymen do not even use God's personal name, and they raise no objections to having it eliminated from modern Bible translations.

2 As was true of the religious leaders in Jesus' day, today's clergy are preaching in vain. (Matt. 15:8, 9) It is just as the prophet Amos foretold. There exists "a famine, not for bread, and a thirst, not for water, but for hearing the words of Jehovah." (Amos 8:11) More than anything else, people need the spiritual food in God's Word.

3 **How to Satisfy People's Spiritual Need:** Paul exhorted Timothy to stick with "the holy writings, which are able to make [one] wise for salvation," and he therefore solemnly charged him to "preach the word" to others. (2 Tim. 3:14, 15; 4:2) As Jehovah's Witnesses, we must stick to what the Bible teaches when we preach, thus imitating our Exemplar, Jesus, who said: "What I teach is not mine, but belongs to him that sent me." (John 7:16) We use God's Word as the basis for our teaching because we recognize that it contains divine wisdom, and we want people to know the source of the information we are sharing with them. —1 Cor. 2:4-7.

4 People must first hear the truth from the Bible in order to learn about Jehovah and put faith in him. Paul wrote logically: "How, in turn, will they put faith in him of whom they have not heard? How, in turn, will they hear without someone to preach?" (Rom. 10:14) By preaching God's Word, we help others gain faith through accurate knowledge. Such knowledge can and does change lives for the better. The English author Charles Dickens wrote concerning the Bible: "It is the best book that ever was or will be in the world, because it teaches you the best lessons by which any human creature who tries to be truthful and faithful can possibly be guided."

5 Those who hunger for spiritual truth come to recognize that it is supported by the authority of God's Word. Back in 1913, Frederick W. Franz, as a young college student, was given a booklet entitled *Where Are the Dead?* After reading with great interest the Bible's answer to this question, he declared: "This is the truth." Millions of truth seekers have come to feel the same way. Let us continue to preach the Word diligently and zealously and thus share in the joy of hearing others say: "This is the truth."

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR JANUARY

Week Starting January 6

Song 6

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Comment on October field service report for the country and for the local congregation.

20 min: Time to Renew the Advance Medical Directive/Release Card. Qualified elder discusses importance of filling out card completely and carrying it at all times. This document speaks for you if you are unable to speak for yourself in an emergency. (Compare Proverbs 22:3.) A new card needs to be filled out every year to give a current declaration on refusal of blood, since some doctors and others have claimed that documents older than one year may not reflect a person's current conviction. After the meeting, all baptized publishers will be given the Advance Medical Directive/Release card, and those with unbaptized minor children will receive an Identity Card for each child. Explain that these cards are not to be filled out tonight. They should be filled out carefully at home but NOT signed. Signing, witnessing, and dating of all cards will be done following the next Congregation Book Study, under the supervision of the book study conductor. He will check to see that all assigned to his group received a card and have needed assistance. Those signing as witnesses should actually see the cardholder sign the document. Anyone missing at that time will be assisted by conductors/elders at the next Service Meeting until all baptized publishers have their cards properly filled out and signed. (Review letter of October 15, 1991.) By adapting language from this card to their own circumstances and convictions, unbaptized publishers may write out their own directive to use for themselves and their children. Refer to Question Box of the December 1995 *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Explain that the health-care power of attorney (proxy) form provided by the Society is a legal document recognized by medical and legal personnel and that when it is properly filled out, it offers additional legal assurance that one's wishes will be respected on blood and other health-care and end-of-life decisions. Baptized publishers may obtain a copy of this document from the secretary. (Unlike the Advance Medical Directive/Release card, which is renewed annually, the health-care power of attorney (proxy) form needs to be replaced only when you elect to make a change in it.) Exercising insight in caring for these vital details will merit good from Jehovah. —Prov. 16:20.

15 min: "Qualified and Equipped to Teach Others." (Paragraphs 1-6) Make brief comments on paragraphs 1-2, stressing the need for us to be confident that with Jehovah's help we can effectively teach others. Have two publisher-householder pairs demonstrate the presentations in paragraphs 3-6, with each pair showing how to make an initial call and a return visit. Remind publishers that when leaving literature, it is appropriate for us to mention that donations toward our worldwide work are gladly accepted.

Song 14 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 13

Song 16

15 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Highlight some talking points in current magazines. Offer suggestions on how to introduce ourselves when approaching people in order to witness informally. Invite audience to relate what opening words they have used when speaking to others in stores, on the street, in the park, on public transportation, and so forth. Outline special field service arrangements for January 20.

15 min: "Qualified and Equipped to Teach Others." (Paragraphs 7-9) Relate experience about making return visits found in *1995 Yearbook,* page 45, emphasizing the importance of following up on any interest found. Have qualified publisher demonstrate presentations in paragraphs 7-8. Although other publications are offered initially, we should concentrate our efforts on eventually conducting studies in the *Knowledge* book. Encourage all to schedule some time during the coming week to make return visits.

15 min: Local needs. Or "Always Throw Your Burden on Jehovah." An encouraging talk based on *The Watchtower,* April 1, 1996, pages 27-30.

Song 15 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 20

Song 21

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: "All Sorts of People Will Be Saved." Questions and answers. Invite audience to relate briefly some experiences showing how they got a favorable response from people who come from different walks of life.

20 min: Witnessing by Good Conduct. An elder holds discussion with two or three youths. Discussion is based on August 15, 1987, *Watchtower,* pages 10-20. Include published experiences as well as any local experiences that demonstrate how observers have been favorably impressed by upright conduct of Christian youths.

Song 23 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 27

Song 20

5 min: Local announcements.

10 min: Review of Question Box by secretary.

15 min: "We 'Preach the Word.'" Questions and answers. Include some comments showing why we deeply appreciate the value of God's Word.—See March 22, 1984, *Awake!,* pages 9-11.

15 min: Review Literature Offer for February. Point out interesting features of the book, such as: (1) Striking chapter titles, (2) colorful illustrations, (3) teaching boxes and charts, and (4) thought-provoking printed questions. In harmony with the preceding meeting part, encourage the use of a well-chosen scripture in the presentation. Have one or two brief presentations demonstrated, with publisher remembering to mention the donation arrangement to the householder. Remind all to pick up books for use this week.

Song 26 and concluding prayer.

1997 "Faith in God's Word" District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses

[1] "A day in your courtyards is better than a thousand elsewhere." (Ps. 84:10) When the psalmist worshiped at Jehovah's temple, he could sense the presence of the almighty God. When the nation gathered for the annual festivals and true worshipers swelled Jerusalem, the Israelites would find sweet fellowship as they congregated in the courtyard of the temple. They were reminded of their national unity as the only people on earth on whom Jehovah bestowed his blessing and favor. Each year, we have the opportunity to share in similar feelings of unity and joy with thousands of our brothers and sisters. In our time annual district conventions are one of Jehovah's ways of bringing his people together for instruction and fellowship.

[2] Caring for the large numbers of Jehovah's people who lived in and around Jerusalem during the festivals required organization. Maintaining order and peace likely required the giving of instructions regarding accommodations, meeting times, and other arrangements. Since these matters concerned their true worship, the Israelites would joyfully follow these instructions.—Ps. 42:4; 122:1.

[3] Hundreds of brothers have already spent tens of thousands of hours organizing convention departments, meeting hotel personnel and negotiating with them, working with building personnel at nearly 70 convention cities, preparing and mailing Recommended Lodging Lists, and so forth. These brothers work closely with the Society's Convention Office to coordinate the many details associated with operating a convention. We may not personally see the tremendous amount of time, effort, and expense that goes into our annual district conventions, but all of us certainly appreciate the self-sacrificing spirit of each of these faithful brothers, do we not?

[4] As preparations continue for our 1997 "Faith in God's Word" District Convention, we have some points that require your kind attention and serious consideration. Your cooperation will show your personal appreciation for all the arrangements made in your behalf. Although some of these matters have been discussed before, it is important for each one of us to see clearly our responsibility before Jehovah in supporting our convention arrangements.

[5] **When to Make a Hotel Reservation:** At the Service Meeting for the week of December 30, the Society directs that your district convention assignment letter be read to the congregation. Mailed separately by the local Rooming Department, the Recommended Lodging List for your convention will be posted on the congregation information board after the meeting that night. The elders have been keeping the district convention assignment and the Recommended Lodging List in strict confidence until this Service Meeting. No reservation calls to ANY hotels, by the elders or anyone else, are to be made until after the Service Meeting when the district convention assignment letter is read.

[6] So that everyone will be able to obtain a room, the Society has instructed each Rooming Department to place all hotels available for the upcoming convention on the first Recommended Lodging List. Only if those hotels are filled will new hotels be added to subsequent lists. Sometimes, brothers have waited until the second or third Recommended Lodging List to make their hotel reservation. Procrastination may be the reason for this, or perhaps they anticipated that a preferred hotel would show up on a later list. Making reservations at the last minute causes two problems for the Rooming Department. First, it is not possible for the Rooming Department to determine when there is a need for additional rooms. Second, since all Watchtower convention reservations must be received before a cutoff date, there may be no rooms available for those who wait too long to make their reservation. Therefore, we are asking that you make your reservation during January from the first Recommended Lodging List.

[7] If the hotel you have selected is full, call another until you have a reservation. If you have called all the hotels on the list and no rooms are available, inform

Making Your Hotel Reservation

1. Call hotel during regular business hours.
2. Ask reservation clerk for a confirmation number.
3. Make your deposit. Write the confirmation number on your check or money order. Do NOT send cash.
4. If you pay by check or money order, contact hotel in two weeks to verify that your deposit has been received.

your congregation secretary and he will contact the Rooming Department at the telephone number shown at the top of each Recommended Lodging List. The brothers in the Rooming Department will work with the hotels to secure additional rooms. A new list will then be mailed to your congregation. Please wait for the new list to make your hotel reservation. When you make a reservation, always ask for a confirmation number from the hotel. Provide this confirmation number to the desk clerk when you check in at the hotel.

[8] Unless the Recommended Lodging List specifically states otherwise, you should plan for a maximum of four adults in a room. Some hotels have informed the Rooming Departments that five, six, and seven adults have been sleeping in the same room. Because of fire and safety regulations, this not only is dangerous but is against the law in most cities. It also places an unfair demand on the hotel and staff for extra towels, linens, and so forth. Therefore, when planning your rooming needs, do not exceed the maximum number of people allowed in the hotel room.

[9] **Sending Deposits to Hotels:** The Society's agreement with each hotel states that our delegates will secure their reservation with a deposit. It further says: "Reservation is guaranteed upon receipt of deposit." So the only way to guarantee a room reservation is if your deposit is received by the hotel. Last year, some brothers arrived at their hotels only to find that their reservation had been canceled weeks before the convention. Without a deposit, the hotel has the right to give your room to someone else, and a one-night deposit is a REQUIREMENT of our rooming arrangement. For each room reserved, a one-night deposit must be made within ten days of making your reservation.

[10] We do not recommend sending cash in the mail. It can be stolen, and there is no proof your money was received. If you send a check or a money order, write your confirmation number on the front of it, and contact the hotel about two weeks later to confirm that your deposit was received. If you provide a credit card number for your deposit, you should tell the reservation clerk that you want the deposit to be charged to your credit card immediately.

[11] **Changing Hotel Reservations or Making Reservations at More Than One Hotel:** Before the convention, the Rooming Department calls each hotel on the list to find out how many rooms have been reserved by our delegates. Doing this every two or three weeks enables the Rooming Department to determine if sufficient hotel rooms have been arranged for the convention. In some cities last year, as the convention approached, hotels that started out with many reservations received numerous cancellations, or delegates with reservations did not show up at all. Where did these brothers and sisters go?

[12] It is apparent that new reservations were made with hotels closer to the convention site and previous reservations were dropped. Because of this, some hotels are asking for at least a two-night guaranteed reservation; otherwise they will refuse to book rooms for Watchtower conventions. Since this creates problems for the hotels and the Rooming Department, we are asking that once you make a reservation, do not switch your reservation to another hotel, even if one that is closer or more desirable appears on a subsequent list. (Matt. 5:37; compare Psalm 15:4.) That hotel has been added because there are brothers and sisters who still need rooms. It was not added to provide upgrades for those who already have rooms reserved. Whether you have a reservation at a hotel 5 minutes or 25 minutes from the convention site, you will still be spiritually fed and will enjoy the association of your brothers and sisters, will you not? It is our goal to reduce the number of lists sent out by the Rooming Departments each year and to simplify rooming arrangements. This can be accomplished only if everyone cooperates with the principle set forth at 1 Timothy 6:8: "So, having sustenance and covering, we shall be content with these things."

[13] It is equally important to reserve only the hotel rooms you will actually use during the convention. Although it may be desirable to have a larger group stay together at the same hotel, this is not a necessity. Unless you have agreed to do so beforehand and you submit definite names, please do not reserve rooms for other delegates. This artificially inflates the number of rooms reserved for the convention and makes it harder for other delegates to make a reservation from the first list. Each room should be reserved in the name of one of the people who will occupy it.

[14] Of course, if you experience a problem with a hotel during the convention, please bring this to the attention of the local Rooming Department at the convention. For any difficulties experienced before or after the convention, you can contact the Rooming Department, using the address and telephone number shown at the top of the Recommended Lodging List. Describe the difficulty in detail, including the steps you have taken to remedy the matter, so that the brothers may assist you.

[15] **Using Hotels Not on the Society's Recommended Lodging List:** The Society is making an effort to arrange conventions in locations that are more convenient for our brothers and sisters. In 1996, conventions were held in 11 additional locations. Some of these cities had not hosted a Watchtower convention in over 20 years. As a result, the Society has received many letters expressing appreciation.

16 Although the convenience of our convention locations permits many brothers to commute to and from the convention site, hotel accommodations remain a necessity. Last year, 1,076 hotels were used at the 198 conventions held in 65 different cities. In each convention city, a team of brothers contacted many local hotels in an effort to negotiate the best possible room rates for the convention delegates. After months of negotiating, the hotels that agreed to work with the convention's room rates were included on the Recommended Lodging List.

17 In every city, these brothers contact many hotels that refuse to work with the Watchtower convention. It is understandable that some hotels do not anticipate having space because of other business. Of the many reasons given, however, one that is frequently heard is: "Why should we negotiate lower rates? Your people stayed with us this year at higher rates, and we expect them back next year as well." Since the hotel is in business to make money, it is difficult to ask them to accept less than they are already receiving from our delegates.

18 Each year, we appeal to the brothers to make reservations only at hotels on the Society's Recommended Lodging List. Several things are accomplished by heeding this direction:

19 ***Saves money for our brothers and sisters, the majority of whom have limited resources:*** When hotels cooperate with the Society's arrangement, room rates are lower for our brothers. Instead of our resources going to the hotels, they can be put to better use supporting the families of our brothers and sisters and the worldwide work. Even if we personally can afford more expensive accommodations, we should support the efforts of the Rooming Department by using only hotels from the Recommended Lodging List. This is the spirit of concern for others described at 1 John 3:17 and the principle behind 1 Corinthians 10:24.

20 ***Rewards those hotels that cooperate with the Society's arrangement:*** Since the Society has contracted with the hotels on the Recommended Lodging List, we have, in effect, promised them that they will receive our business. In this way they remain willing to participate in the future.

21 ***Provides incentive for other hotels to work with the rooming arrangement:*** When hotels not on the Recommended Lodging List are used and higher rates are paid, there is little motivation for those hotels to work with the Society's arrangement. In time, even hotels that previously cooperated with the Society's arrangement often refuse to do so because they find out that some of our brothers will pay higher rates. However, if delegates use only the hotels on the Recommended Lodging List, other hotels may see the value of cooperating at a later time.

Do's

- DO make your reservation during January.
- DO identify yourself as one of Jehovah's Witnesses or as a delegate attending the Watchtower convention.
- DO make your deposit as soon as your reservation is made.
- DO reserve only the room(s) you will personally use.
- DO keep your first reservation.

22 ***Demonstrates obedience to the Society's directions:*** It is this last point that should be one of our main concerns. Hebrews 13:17 says: "Be obedient to those who are taking the lead among you and be submissive, for they are keeping watch over your souls as those who will render an account; that they may do this with joy and not with sighing, for this would be damaging to you." As our brothers make many arrangements for our district convention, we want them to feel that they have our full support. Since our cooperation in this matter is requested only two or three days each year, this is a fine way to support their efforts. Even if our personal choice is different, our good example, as seen by our brothers and the world, promotes a loving, united, and supportive spirit.—Phil. 2:1-4.

23 **Special Needs:** The Society's Special Needs Room Request form outlines the qualifications for submitting a Special Needs form: "If you are in good standing in the congregation and have special needs that cannot be cared for by the local congregation, you may request accommodations through the Convention Rooming Department." This provision is only for publishers in good standing, including those with well-behaved children, who have been approved by the Congregation Service Committee. Those with special needs are our brothers and sisters, and we want to be of assistance to them.

24 The elderly, the infirm, those in full-time service, or others may require assistance in attending the convention. Relatives, the elders, and others in the congregation who are aware of their unique circumstances can lovingly make the necessary arrangements, not shifting the responsibility of family and congregation to the convention organization. (Compare 1 Timothy 5:4.) Before filling out a Special Needs Room Request form, carefully read the

information located at the bottom of the form. These requests should be sent to the Rooming Department as soon as possible.

[25] **Attending Another Convention:** Each congregation is assigned to the nearest convention. Based on the number of publishers assigned to each convention, the Society estimates the attendance in order to arrange for sufficient seating, rooming, literature, and so forth. If you must attend another convention, you may need information regarding rooming and parking tickets, among other things. If so, you should ask the congregation secretary to provide you with the address of the convention headquarters for the convention you will be attending. This can be found on the reverse side of the Special Needs Room Request form. Be sure to enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request for the current Recommended Lodging List or for any additional information you may need. If there is more than one convention held in that city, be sure to indicate the dates for the convention you will be attending.

[26] **Conclusion:** Letters received by the Society after the district conventions each year provide ample evidence that our brothers and sisters appreciate the arrangements made for them. Regarding the rooming arrangement, a sister attending a convention in Ohio last year wrote: "The rate was exceptional—their regular rate was $79.00 per night. As soon as we identified ourselves as Jehovah's Witnesses attending the Watchtower convention, they firmly quoted the price on our list! We thanked Jehovah for such a provision! Jehovah always provides for his people. Through his visible organization, we are always made to feel special. It was a great experience for our family to attend the convention. It would not have been practical or possible without your assistance." Like our sister, are we not grateful to Jehovah for his help in these ways?

Program Times

Friday and Saturday
9:30 a.m. - 4:50 p.m.
Sunday
9:30 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.

[27] It is clear to all of us that Jehovah is supporting the arrangement of annual conventions. Since many of the brothers traveling to district conventions require rooms, we can be assured that Jehovah will adequately provide for these needs. Since these matters concern our true worship, we should joyfully follow the instructions given. Proving that we are "faithful in what is least" puts us in line for receiving the grand blessings that await those whom Jehovah loves.—Luke 16:10.

[28] Isaiah 33:20 says: "Behold Zion, the town of our festal occasions!" We can only imagine the happy crowds that were filling Jerusalem and that willingly responded to Jehovah's command to "become nothing but joyful." (Deut. 16:15) Our annual district conventions allow us the grand opportunity both to take in divine instruction and to enjoy the warm association of our brothers and sisters. May Jehovah bless your efforts as you prepare to attend the 1997 "Faith in God's Word" series of district conventions!

NEW PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

- New Publications Available:

How to Improve Your Speaking and Teaching Ability —Lithuanian
My Book of Bible Stories (Large size) —Latvian, Otetela
Questions Young People Ask—Answers That Work —Albanian
The Divine Name That Will Endure Forever —Macedonian
The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived —Turkish
The Secret of Family Happiness —Albanian, Arabic, Bulgarian, Chinese, Chinese (Simplified), Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Fijian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Gujarati, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Korean, Lithuanian, Maltese, Norwegian, Papiamento, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Samoan, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese
What Does God Require of Us? —Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Assyrian, Bulgarian, Cambodian, Chinese, Chinese (Simplified), Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Gujarati, Haitian Creole, Hindi, Hiri Motu, Hungarian, Italian, Korean, Latvian, Lithuanian, Macedonian, New Guinea Pidgin, Norwegian, Papiamento, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Samoan, Serbian, Spanish, Swedish, Tahitian, Tamil, Ukrainian, Urdu, Vietnamese
What Is the Purpose of Life? How Can You Find It? —Latvian
Why You Can Trust the Bible (Tract No. 13) —Persian
Will This World Survive? (Tract No. 19) —Persian

- New Audiocassettes Available:

Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life (five cassettes in an album) —Korean, Swedish
Preserving Life in Time of Famine (Drama, single cassette) —Norwegian
What Does God Require of Us? (single cassette) —English

- New Videocassettes Available:

The New World Society in Action —Spanish
To the Ends of the Earth —Arabic, Chinese (Cantonese), Chinese (Mandarin), Greek, Italian, Korean
What Does God Require of Us? —American Sign Language

- New Compact Discs Available:

Kingdom Melodies Volume 3 (*cdm*-3)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **January:** Any 192-page book published prior to 1984 that the congregation may have in stock. Congregations that do not have a supply of such books may offer *Survival Into a New Earth.* **February:** *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!* **March:** *The Secret of Family Happiness.* **April:** Individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* For territory that is covered frequently, the new brochure, *What Does God Require of Us?*, may be used.
- All baptized publishers present at the Service Meeting the week of January 6 will be given the Advance Medical Directive/Release card and the Identity Card for their children.
- Starting in February, and no later than March 2, the new public talk for circuit overseers will be "Use Education to Praise Jehovah."
- Congregations should make convenient arrangements to celebrate the Memorial this year on Sunday, March 23, after sundown. Although the talk may start earlier, the passing of the Memorial emblems *should not begin until after sundown.* Check with local sources to determine when sundown occurs in your area. Since no meetings other than those for field service are to be held on that day, appropriate adjustments should be made for the *Watchtower* Study to be conducted at another time. Circuit overseers will need to adjust their meeting schedule for the week according to local circumstances. Although it is desirable for each congregation to hold its own Memorial celebration, this may not always be possible. Where a number of congregations normally use the same Kingdom Hall, perhaps one or more congregations can obtain the use of another facility for that evening. The Memorial should not start so late that newly interested people find it inconvenient to attend. Nor should the schedule be so tight that there is no time before or after the celebration to greet visitors, make arrangements for continued spiritual assistance for interested ones, or enjoy a general interchange of encouragement. After thoroughly considering all factors, the elders should decide what arrangements will best help those who attend the Memorial to benefit fully from the occasion.
- The special public talk for the 1997 Memorial season will be given on Sunday, April 6. An outline will be provided. Those congregations having the visit of the circuit overseer, a circuit assembly, or a special assembly day that weekend will have the special talk the following week. No congregation should have the special talk before April 6.
- The body of elders should be aware that the following adjustments are needed when the congregation attends local assemblies: When a special assembly day program is scheduled, the congregation should have all the normal meetings throughout the week, except that the Public Meeting and the *Watchtower* Study are canceled. When scheduled to attend a circuit assembly, the congregation will also cancel the Theocratic Ministry School and the Service Meeting; only the Congregation Book Study will be held locally during that week.

OCTOBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**188**	**121.7**	**98.0**	**49.9**	**4.2**
Pios.	**73,957**	**81.8**	**53.2**	**24.8**	**2.0**
Aux. Pios.	**26,267**	**58.9**	**40.7**	**15.1**	**1.0**
Pubs.	**821,984**	**9.3**	**7.3**	**3.4**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**922,396**			Baptized: **3,331**	

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.*

January 6:	**Chapters 44-47**
January 13:	**Chapters 48-51**
January 20:	**Chapters 52-54**
January 27:	**Chapters 55-57**

QUESTION BOX

- Why should we report our field service activity promptly each month?

All of us feel a sense of joy when we hear about good things being accomplished in preaching the Kingdom message. (See Proverbs 25:25.) Acts 2:41 reports that following Peter's stirring discourse on the day of Pentecost, "about three thousand souls were added." A short time later, that number had grown to "about five thousand." (Acts 4:4) How exhilarating those reports must have been to the first-century Christians! We react the same way to encouraging reports today. We are thrilled to hear about the success our brothers enjoy in preaching the good news worldwide.

Since much time and effort are involved in compiling such reports, the cooperation of every Kingdom publisher is essential. Are you conscientious about turning in your report promptly each month?

Reports of increases bring us much joy. Additionally, reports help the Society to monitor the progress of the worldwide work. Decisions have to be made as to where more help may be needed or the type and amount of literature to be produced. Elders in each congregation use field service reports to determine where improvement can be made. Good reports are upbuilding, motivating all of us to examine our own ministry for possible improvements.

All publishers need to appreciate their individual responsibility to turn in a field service report promptly each month. Congregation Book Study conductors are in a good position to remind the publishers of this responsibility, since they are also alert to give personal assistance to those who may have some difficulty sharing in the field service regularly each month. This reminder could be given at the last book study each month or at another appropriate time. If there is no opportunity to turn in field service reports at the Kingdom Hall, the Congregation Book Study conductor can collect them and see that they are given to the secretary in time to be included with the congregation's regular monthly report to the Society.

Our diligence in faithfully reporting our field service activity promptly makes the load lighter for those responsible for our spiritual well-being.

Qualified and Equipped to Teach Others

[1] When Moses was appointed as Jehovah's representative, he did not feel qualified to declare God's word to Pharaoh. (Ex. 4:10; 6:12) Jeremiah revealed his lack of confidence in being able to serve as Jehovah's prophet, telling God that he did not know how to speak. (Jer. 1:6) Despite their initial lack of confidence, both of those prophets proved to be fearless witnesses for Jehovah. They were adequately qualified by God.

[2] Today, thanks to Jehovah, we have what we need to accomplish our ministry with confidence. (2 Cor. 3:4, 5; 2 Tim. 3:17) Like a qualified mechanic with a full set of tools, we are properly equipped to accomplish our assigned ministry skillfully. In January we are offering any 192-page book that was published prior to 1984 and that the congregation may have on hand. Although these spiritual tools are not new, their Scriptural themes are still current and these books will help people to learn the truth. The following suggested presentations may be adapted to whichever book is being offered.

[3] ***The subject of education may be used to create interest in God's Word. You could initiate a conversation by saying:***

■ "There is much emphasis today on the need for quality education. In your opinion, what kind of education should a person pursue to ensure the greatest happiness and success in life? [Allow for response.] Eternal benefits can be gained by those who take in knowledge of God. [Read Proverbs 9:10, 11.] This handbook [give title of the book you are offering] is based on the Bible. It points to the only source of knowledge that can lead to everlasting life." Show a specific example in the book. If there is genuine interest, leave the book and arrange for a return visit. State that although the publication is left without charge, we will accept a small donation toward our worldwide ministry.

[4] ***When returning to a householder with whom you discussed the importance of Bible education, you might say:***

■ "On my last visit, we discussed the Bible as being the source of education that can ensure our eternal future. Of course, it takes effort to learn what we need to know from the Scriptures. [Read Proverbs 2:1-5.] Many people find it difficult to understand some portions of the Bible. I would like to demonstrate briefly a method we have used extensively to help people learn more about basic Bible teachings." Using the book that was left, turn to an appropriate place and briefly demonstrate a Bible study. If the householder desires to have a regular study, explain that you will return with our study aid *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.*

[5] ***Many people are troubled by the suffering of millions of the world's children. Perhaps you can help the householder to see how God views this plight, by saying:***

■ "No doubt you have seen news reports about children around the globe who are hungry, sick, and neglected. Why have concerned organizations not been able to improve the situation? [Allow for response.] God wants only what is best for humans. Note what he promises for children and adults, as recorded in the Bible. [Read Revelation 21:4.] This book [mention the title] provides more details about a world of God's making where suffering will cease." If possible, open to an illustration that depicts Paradise, and discuss it. Offer the book, and arrange for another visit. Gladly accept any donation the individual is willing to make toward our work.

[6] ***If you spoke initially about the suffering of children, on the next visit you might continue the discussion by saying:***

■ "When I was here recently, you expressed concern about the plight of children who suffer because of broken homes, famine, sickness, and violence. It is comforting to read in the Bible about a world where neither children nor adults will suffer sickness, pain, or death. A prophecy in the book of Isaiah describes a better life to come on earth." Read and discuss Isaiah 65:20-25. Lead up to an eventual Bible study in the *Knowledge* book.

[7] ***Since the practice of prayer is common for religious people, you could start a conversation on this topic by saying:***

■ "At some point in our life, most of us have experienced problems that have moved us to pray to God for help. And yet, many feel that their prayers are not answered. It even appears that religious leaders who pray publicly for peace are not being heard. We say that because war and violence continue to distress mankind. Does God really listen to prayers? If he does, why do so many prayers seem to go unanswered? [Allow for response.] Psalm 145:18 explains what is required if our prayers are to be answered. [Read scripture.] For one thing, prayers to God must be sincere and in accord with the truth found in his Word, the Bible." Show the book you are offering, and point out what it says about the value of prayer.

[8] ***When following up a previous discussion about prayer, you might try this approach:***

■ "I enjoyed our conversation on the subject of prayer. You will no doubt find Jesus' thoughts about what to pray for to be a helpful guide." Read Matthew 6:9, 10, pointing out the chief concerns featured by Jesus in his model prayer. Show chapter 16, "How You Can Draw Close to God," in the *Knowledge* book, and ask if you can demonstrate how to study the material.

[9] When it comes to imparting the knowledge of God to others, we may ask, "Who is adequately qualified for these things?" The Scriptures answer: "We are."—2 Cor. 2:16, 17.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

February 1997 For United States of America Vol. 40, No. 2

Share In the Work That Will Never Be Repeated

1 At various times throughout mankind's history, it was necessary for Jehovah to execute judgment upon his enemies. However, because of his mercy, he provided rightehearted ones with an opportunity for salvation. (Ps. 103:13) Their response determined their destiny.

2 For example, prior to the Flood, in 2370 B.C.E., Noah was "a preacher of righteousness." The ones who perished were those who ignored the divine warning. (2 Pet. 2:5; Heb. 11:7) Before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 C.E., Jesus clearly outlined the action that would be needed for anyone to escape the devastation that was to befall the city. All who rejected his warning message suffered dire consequences. (Luke 21:20-24) Such divine warnings and judgments were repeated many times throughout history.

3 **A Modern-Day Warning Work:** Jehovah long ago declared that his anger would be unleashed against today's wicked system and that only the meek ones would survive. (Zeph. 2:2, 3; 3:8) The time for preaching this warning message is fast running out! The "great tribulation" is just ahead, and meek ones are now being gathered. Indeed, the "fields" are "white for harvesting." Hence, no other work can compare with this as to importance and urgency.—Matt. 24:14, 21, 22; John 4:35.

4 We must share in sounding the modern-day warning to others, "whether they will hear or will refrain." This is a God-given assignment, which we dare not ignore. (Ezek. 2:4, 5; 3:17, 18) Our having a full share in this work provides a convincing demonstration of our deep love for God, our genuine concern for our neighbors, and our unshakable faith in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

5 **Now Is the Time to Act:** After past judgments by Jehovah, wickedness always sprang up anew because Satan and his demons were still active. However, this time it will be different. Satanic influence will be eliminated. A global warning about an impending "great tribulation" will never again be needed. (Rev. 7:14; Rom. 16:20) We have the special privilege of being part of a never-to-be-repeated work. Now is the time for us to make the most of this opportunity.

6 About his preaching activity, the apostle Paul, with great conviction, stated: "I am clean from the blood of all men." (Acts 20:26) He did not feel bloodguilty through any failure to sound the warning. Why not? Because he could say of his ministry: "To this end I am indeed working hard, exerting myself." (Col. 1:29) Let us enjoy the same satisfaction of sharing to the fullest extent possible in the work that will never be repeated!—2 Tim. 2:15.

What About Your Relatives?

1 Most of us have a number of relatives who are not in the truth. How we long for such loved ones to join us on the road to life! Our concern for their everlasting future may be greater when they are members of our own household. Although we have tried for years to interest them in the truth, we should not conclude that the situation is hopeless.

2 When Jesus did his preaching, "his brothers were, in fact, not exercising faith in him." (John 7:5) At one point, his relatives thought he was insane. (Mark 3:21) Yet, Jesus did not give up on them. In time, his brothers accepted the truth. (Acts 1:14) His half brother James became a pillar in the Christian congregation. (Gal. 1:18, 19; 2:9) If you would like to have the joy of seeing your relatives embrace the truth, do not stop trying to reach them with the Kingdom good news.

3 **Be Refreshing, Not Overwhelming:** When Jesus preached to others, his listeners felt refreshed, not browbeaten. (Matt. 11:28, 29) He did not overwhelm them with teachings that they could not grasp. To refresh your relatives with the waters of truth, give them a cup at a time, not a bucketful! A traveling overseer observed: "The best results are achieved by those who awaken curiosity in their relatives by witnessing in measured doses." In this way, even opposers may begin to ask questions and eventually develop a thirst for the truth. —1 Pet. 2:2; compare 1 Corinthians 3:1, 2.

4 Many married Christians have effectively witnessed to their unbelieving mates by leaving literature open to material that might interest them. One sister who did this also conducted a study with her children within the hearing of her husband, giving explanations that would benefit him. Sometimes she would ask him: "I learned such and such in my study today. What do you think about it?" Her husband finally accepted the truth.

5 **Be Respectful, Not Impatient:** One publisher commented that "even relatives have a right to their own views and opinions." So we should show respect when they voice their thoughts or when they specifically ask us not to speak to them about the truth. (Eccl. 3:7; 1 Pet. 3:15) By being patient and loving and by being good listeners, we can look for appropriate opportunities to give a subtle witness. Such patience can be rewarding, as was seen in the case of a Christian husband who patiently endured his unbelieving wife's mistreatment for 20 years. Once she began to change, he said: "How grateful I am to Jehovah that he helped me to cultivate long-suffering, because I can now see the result: My wife has started to walk on the path of life!"

6 What about your relatives? It may be that through your good Christian conduct and your prayers in their behalf, "you may win them to Jehovah." —1 Pet. 3:1, 2, footnote.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR FEBRUARY

Week Starting February 3

Song 27

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Theocratic News.

15 min: "Share In the Work That Will Never Be Repeated." Questions and answers. As time permits, include points from "Keeping on the Watch—How?" on pages 714-15 of the *Proclaimers* book.

20 min: "Presenting the Good News With a Sense of Urgency." (Paragraphs 1-5) After brief comments on paragraph 1, chairman discusses paragraphs 2-5 with two or three publishers. They review highlights of the suggested presentations and comment on why these or similar presentations may be effective in the local territory. Publishers take turns practicing the presentations. Chairman gives commendation, suggests ways to make them more effective, and offers reminders on the need to mention the donation arrangement. He then asks audience about ways the goal of starting studies can be reached. Gives specific ideas of how eventually to get a study started in the *Knowledge* book.

Song 34 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 10

Song 29

5 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

10 min: "Presenting the Good News With a Sense of Urgency." (Paragraphs 6-8) Demonstrate presentations in paragraphs 6-7. Emphasize the need to make a return visit where interest is shown.

30 min: "Wanted—100,000 Auxiliary Pioneers." Question-and-answer coverage by the service overseer. Highlight the box on page 3. Review the sample schedules on page 6. Each baptized publisher ought to consider personally and prayerfully whether he is able to enroll for one or more months. Unbaptized publishers can expand their share in the ministry by setting their own goal of hours each month.

Song 43 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 17

Song 30

10 min: Local announcements. Mention interesting talking points in the current magazines that can be used in service this week.

13 min: "The Memorial—An Event of Great Importance!" Questions and answers. Offer encouragement to make the entire month of March special by auxiliary pioneering. Highlight use of Memorial invitations.

22 min: Starting Home Bible Studies. In recent months, hundreds of thousands of bound books have been placed. This provides a basis for starting many more home Bible studies. Review what was accomplished locally in placing books and other literature. Encourage publishers to follow up on all interest. Have several publishers relate specifically the effort required on their part to start new home Bible studies. Emphasize that an integral part of our commission is to make disciples. (Matt. 28:19, 20) This can be done effectively if we endeavor to apply suggestions set out in the June 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert.

Song 47 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 24

Song 32

18 min: Local announcements. Announce the names of all who are auxiliary pioneering in March. Explain that it is not too late to submit an application. Encourage all to have a full share in field service on Saturday, March 1. Outline the additional arrangements that are being made locally for meetings for service during the month. Carefully review the Question Box.

12 min: "What About Your Relatives?" Husband and wife discuss the article together and decide on how to approach unbelieving relatives with the good news.—See February 15, 1990, *Watchtower*, pages 25-7.

15 min: Review Literature Offer for March—*The Secret of Family Happiness.* Briefly discuss the reasons behind family breakdown in modern society. (See October 15, 1992, *Watchtower*, pages 4-7.) Review the book's contents, on page 3. Invite audience to pick out chapters that could provide the basis for a presentation. Point out the helpful teaching box that appears at the end of each chapter. Have a capable publisher demonstrate how to present the book. Remind all to pick up copies for use this weekend and to mention the donation arrangement when placing them.

Song 48 and concluding prayer.

The Memorial —An Event of Great Importance!

[1] On Sunday, March 23, after sundown, we will celebrate the Memorial of Christ's death. (Luke 22:19) This is truly an event of great importance! By keeping his integrity to Jehovah until death, Jesus proved that it is possible for a human to maintain perfect godly devotion even under severe stress, thus upholding the rightfulness of Jehovah's sovereignty. (Heb. 5:8) Additionally, Christ's death provided the perfect human sacrifice needed to ransom mankind, making it possible for those who exercise faith to live everlastingly. (John 3:16) By being present at the Memorial, we can demonstrate our heartfelt appreciation both for Jehovah's love and for Jesus' sacrifice for us.

[2] All are encouraged to follow the Bible-reading program that is scheduled for March 18-23, as noted on the *1997 Calendar of Jehovah's Witnesses.* Also, a family discussion of chapters 112-16 of the book *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived* will help to focus our attention on the most important week in human history.

[3] Can you increase the time you spend in the field ministry during the Memorial season? Many publishers will take full advantage of the five weekends in March to serve as auxiliary pioneers. Why not be among them? All of us can have a full share in emphasizing the importance of attending the Memorial. Since it falls on a Sunday, it will be easier for many to attend. Be sure to invite all Bible students and other interested ones to join with us. Share with them what is stated on page 127, paragraph 18, in the *Knowledge* book regarding the one day of the year that is to be specially observed.

[4] Approach this greatest event of 1997 with deep appreciation for all that Jesus' death means for us. Be present on the evening of March 23, when true Christians everywhere faithfully observe the Memorial.

Wanted—100,000 Auxiliary Pioneers

Can You Auxiliary Pioneer in March? April? May?

1 "Wanted 1,000 Preachers" was the title of an article published in the April 1881 issue of the *Watch Tower*. It contained an appeal to all dedicated men and women, "to whom the Lord has committed a knowledge of His truth," to use whatever time they could to share in spreading Bible truth. Those who could give half or more of their time exclusively to the Lord's work were encouraged to volunteer as colporteur evangelizers—the forerunners of today's pioneers.

2 Although times have changed since the 1800's, one fact remains the same—God's dedicated servants want to continue using as much time as possible in spreading the good news. Serving as auxiliary pioneers enables congregation publishers to improve their effectiveness as they put forth extra time in the Kingdom ministry.—Col. 4:17; 2 Tim. 4:5.

3 Ever since its inception, auxiliary pioneering has been enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of brothers and sisters. Enthusiasm for this feature of the pioneer ministry grew to the extent that a peak of more than 100,000 auxiliary pioneers was reached in the United States branch territory in April 1985! Three times since then, more than 100,000 publishers have shared as auxiliary pioneers during the month of April—in 1988, 1989, and 1992. The potential certainly exists to repeat this fine effort during the spring of 1997.

4 We encourage you to have the goal of auxiliary pioneering during one or more of the months of March, April, and May. Why include March? Because this year the Memorial of Christ's death falls on Sunday, March 23. There is no better way that we could spend the weeks preceding the Memorial than to share zealously in the Kingdom-preaching work that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, instituted. With a great heap of witness being given in March, we can invite many interested persons to join us in the commemoration of Christ's death. March will also be special in that, for the first time, we will be featuring the new book, *The Secret of Family Happiness*. Additionally, the month of March contains five Saturdays and five Sundays, allowing for intensive weekend activity in the field service. Of course, during the months of April and May, a continued zealous effort in the ministry will allow us to follow up on the interest found and start new home Bible studies, using the brochure *What Does God Require of Us?* We will also cover our territory thoroughly, particularly on weekends, with the current timely issues of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*

5 **Who Qualify to Auxiliary Pioneer?:** *Organized to Accomplish Our Ministry,* page 114, explains: "Whatever your personal circumstances, if you are baptized, are of good moral standing, can arrange to meet the requirement of spending 60 hours a month in the field ministry and believe you could serve one or more months as an auxiliary pioneer, the congregation elders will be pleased to consider your application for this privilege of

How to Succeed as an Auxiliary Pioneer

- Be positive about your prospects
- Pray to Jehovah to bless your efforts
- Invite another publisher to pioneer with you
- Work out a practical service schedule
- Order an ample supply of magazines
- Support congregation arrangements for service
- Seek opportunities for witnessing informally

service." Can you make room for this privilege in March? April? May?

[6] A positive attitude on the part of the bodies of elders along with the wholehearted support of the rest of the publishers should make the response to this call for 100,000 auxiliary pioneers a resounding success. (Heb. 13:7) All family heads are encouraged to ascertain how many within their household can join the ranks of the auxiliary pioneers during one or more of the coming months.—Ps. 148:12, 13; compare Acts 21:8, 9.

[7] Do not be quick to conclude that auxiliary pioneering is beyond your reach because of your full-time secular work, school schedule, family responsibilities, or other Scriptural obligations. For some it may not be easy to take part; nevertheless, with good organization and Jehovah's blessing, they can succeed. (Ps. 37:5; Prov. 16:3) Let the desire to share in pioneer service control your circumstances; do not let your circumstances control your desire to pioneer. (Prov. 13:19a) Hence, with a strong love for Jehovah and for fellow humans, many are able to adjust their weekly routine of life so as to expand their ministry a month at a time. (Luke 10:27, 28) Many blessings are in store for those who exert themselves vigorously in the Kingdom service.—1 Tim. 4:10.

[8] **What Auxiliary Pioneering Accomplishes:** The whole-souled effort that thousands of God's servants put forth to auxiliary pioneer results in *a great shout of praise to Jehovah.* As these Kingdom proclaimers exert themselves to spread the good news to more people, they are drawn closer to Jehovah personally because they learn to be more dependent upon him for his spirit and blessing.

[9] Having auxiliary, regular, and special pioneers active in our midst produces *a fresh spirit of vitality in the congregation.* Their enthusiasm is contagious as they talk about their field experiences. This motivates others to reevaluate their own priorities and potential for having an expanded share in the all-important work of the ministry. A sister who was baptized at the age of 70 immediately began auxiliary pioneering on a continuous basis. When asked some years later why, at her age, she was still exerting herself so much in the ministry as an auxiliary pioneer every month, she said she felt as though the first 70 years of her life had been wasted, and she did not want to waste any of her remaining years of life!

[10] Each participant in the auxiliary pioneer work develops *an improved skill in the ministry.* One young witness admitted: 'During early childhood I used to accompany my parents in their preaching activities. Field service was really fun. However, in time, it dawned on me that at school I stood out from the rest of the crowd. It then became awkward for me to speak to fellow students about the truth. When preaching from house to house, I began to dread the thought of meeting up with someone I knew from school. In my case I think the problem was fear of man. [Prov. 29:25] After getting out of school, I decided to try pioneering on a temporary basis. As a result, preaching took on an appeal that it never had before. No longer did I view it as a fun activity, nor was it a heavy burden. On seeing my Bible students progress in the truth, I enjoyed a sense of deep satisfaction at the evidence that Jehovah God was backing my efforts.' This youth went on to serve as a regular pioneer.

[11] From a practical standpoint, when many serve as auxiliary pioneers in the congregation, *a thorough coverage of the territory* results. The brother who handles the assigning of territories can ask the auxiliary pioneers for their assistance in covering the seldom-worked sections. Packing a lunch and putting in a whole day of service will make it possible to work even the distant corners of the territory.

[12] **Elders to Make Advance Preparations:** Throughout the next three months, arrangements should be made to schedule different kinds of witnessing activity at various times of the week, including late afternoon and early evening, so that as many as possible can take part. In addition to doing regular house-to-house work, include periods for street witnessing, working business territory, and calling on not-at-homes. By so doing, elders help those who are pioneering to share in service with the congregation at a time that will be most practical and convenient for the pioneers. The congregation should be well in-

formed of all field service arrangements. The handling of meetings for service should be well organized. Additionally, adequate territory should be made available and ample magazines and other literature supplies should be ordered promptly.

[13] **Plan Your Personal Service Schedule:** One brother, who at first was apprehensive about auxiliary pioneering, said: "It really is a lot easier than I thought it was going to be. It just takes a good schedule." On the back page of this insert, do you see a sample auxiliary pioneer schedule that would be practical for you? Fifteen hours each week for the ministry is all the time that is required of auxiliary pioneers.

[14] In order to serve as auxiliary pioneers, housewives and second-shift workers can often schedule their mornings for the field service. Schoolchildren and third-shift workers can generally devote late afternoons to the preaching work. Full-time secular workers have found it possible either to take off one day of work a week or to devote full weekends to the ministry, in addition to doing evening witnessing. Many whose field service is mostly limited to weekend activity choose months that contain five full weekends. This year, that is true of March, as well as August and November. Using the blank schedule on page 6 that is provided as a guide, give careful and prayerful thought to what will be a practical personal service schedule for your individual situation.

[15] One advantage of the provision to auxiliary pioneer is its flexibility. You can choose the months that you will pioneer, and you can serve as often as you desire. If you would like to auxiliary pioneer on a continuous basis but cannot do so, have you thought of enrolling every other month throughout the year? On the other hand, some are able to serve continuously as auxiliary pioneers for extended periods of time.

[16] **A Warm-Up for Full-Time Pioneering:** Many who have the pioneer spirit would like to serve as regular pioneers, but they wonder if they have the time, the circumstances, or the stamina for it. Undoubtedly most of those who are now regular pioneering first used auxiliary pioneer service as a warm-up for the full-time work. By increasing one's auxiliary pioneer schedule just one hour each day, or one full day each week, it is possible to fulfill the regular pioneer schedule. To see if that is possible for you, why not try to devote 90 hours in the ministry during one or more months of auxiliary pioneering? At the same time, you will be developing return visits and Bible studies, which will allow you to enjoy a well-rounded pioneer ministry.

[17] One sister enjoyed six years of continuous auxiliary pioneering. All that time it was her goal to enter the regular pioneer service. To that end, she tried four different secular jobs in hopes of creating a situation that would put the 90-hour requirement for regular pioneers within her grasp. Each month, she drew up one or two schedules in order to calculate whether it might be possible. But on examining them, she felt the full-time ministry was beyond her reach. Still, she continued to ask Jehovah for his direction. Then one day while preparing for the Service Meeting, she read an article in the September 1991 *Our Kingdom Ministry* that stated: "Rather than placing undue emphasis on the hour requirement, why not focus attention on the increased opportunity to share in the ingathering work? (John 4: 35, 36)" She relates: "I reread this sentence five or six times, and I was quite sure that this was Jehovah's answer. At that moment I made the decision to enter the regular pioneer service." Although her part-time secular work schedule was far from ideal, she submitted her application to regular pioneer. A week later her schedule was changed, and she was given secular working hours that were just right for her. She concluded, "Is this Jehovah's hand, or not?," and added: "When you ask Jehovah for guidance and you receive it, do not run away from it—accept it." If it is your earnest desire to regular pioneer, perhaps by the end of three months of auxiliary pioneering this March, April, and May, you will be convinced that you too can succeed in the full-time ministry.

[18] We are certain that Jehovah will bless the zeal and will support the efforts of his people as they publish the good news of salvation during this special springtime period of activity. (Isa. 52:7; Rom. 10:15) Will you answer the call for 100,000 auxiliary pioneers by having a share in March? April? May?

Auxiliary Pioneer Schedules

Sample Ways to Schedule 15 Hours of Field Service Each Week

Mornings—Monday through Saturday

Sunday may be substituted for any day

Day	Period	Hours
Monday	Morning	2½
Tuesday	Morning	2½
Wednesday	Morning	2½
Thursday	Morning	2½
Friday	Morning	2½
Saturday	Morning	2½
Total Hours:		**15**

Two Full Days

Any two days of the week may be selected

Day	Period	Hours
Wednesday	Full Day	7½
Saturday	Full Day	7½
Total Hours:		**15**

Two Evenings and the Weekend

Any two weekday evenings may be selected

Day	Period	Hours
Monday	Evening	1½
Wednesday	Evening	1½
Saturday	Full Day	8
Sunday	Half Day	4
Total Hours:		**15**

Weekday Afternoons and Saturday

Sunday may be substituted for any day

Day	Period	Hours
Monday	Afternoon	2
Tuesday	Afternoon	2
Wednesday	Afternoon	2
Thursday	Afternoon	2
Friday	Afternoon	2
Saturday	Full Day	5
Total Hours:		**15**

My Personal Service Schedule

Decide on the number of hours for each period

Day	Period	Hours
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday		
Total Hours:		**15**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **February:** *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!* **March:** *The Secret of Family Happiness.* **April and May:** Individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* For midweek service and in territory that is covered frequently, the new brochure, *What Does God Require of Us?*, may be used.

■ The secretary and the service overseer should review the activity of all regular pioneers. If any are having difficulty meeting the hour requirement, the elders should arrange for assistance to be given. For suggestions, review Society's letters (S-201) of October 1, 1993, and October 1, 1992. Also see paragraphs 12-20 of the August 1986 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert.

NOVEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**181**	**122.3**	**87.4**	**50.3**	**4.3**
Pios.	**72,936**	**76.6**	**44.3**	**23.5**	**2.0**
Aux. Pios.	**21,588**	**57.2**	**34.4**	**14.9**	**1.1**
Pubs.	**816,298**	**9.3**	**6.8**	**3.4**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**911,003**		Baptized: **3,449**		

■ Publishers who wish to serve as auxiliary pioneers in March, April, and May should make their plans now and turn in their application early. This will help the elders to make necessary field service arrangements and have sufficient magazines and other literature on hand. The names of all who are approved to auxiliary pioneer should be announced to the congregation.

■ On Saturday, May 10, 1997, the Society's facilities in Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, will be closed for spring cleaning. There will be no arrangements for tours or for congregations to pick up literature on that day.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.*

February 3:	**Chapters 58-60**
February 10:	**Chapters 61-63**
February 17:	**Chapters 64-66**
February 24:	**Chapters 67-69**

■ New Publications Available:

How to Improve Your Speaking and Teaching Ability	—Samoan
The Secret of Family Happiness	—Cebuano, Iloko, Japanese, Tagalog, Tamil, Thai
Watch Tower Publications Index 1986-1995	—English
What Does God Require of Us?	—Cebuano, Iloko, Japanese, Laotian, Tagalog, Thai

■ New Audiocassettes Available:

What Does God Require of Us? (single cassette)	—Italian

■ New Videocassettes Available:

The Bible—Accurate History, Reliable Prophecy	—Polish
The Bible—Its Power in Your Life (Volume 3 of the series *The Bible—A Book of Fact and Prophecy*)	—English
The New World Society in Action	—Arabic, French, Greek

THEOCRATIC NEWS

Benin: This small country reached its 45th consecutive peak of publishers in September, with 4,843 reporting.

Bolivia: A new peak of 12,823 publishers reported in October. This was an 8-percent increase over last year's average. Congregation publishers averaged 13.1 hours in field service.

QUESTION BOX

■ What should be done when a disaster strikes that directly affects our brothers?

If a Disaster Strikes in Your Area: Do not panic. Keep your composure, and concentrate on what is truly valuable—life, not possessions. Care for your family's immediate physical needs. Then notify the elders about your circumstances and present location.

The elders and ministerial servants play a crucial role in providing relief assistance. If advance warning of a disaster is given, as with some major storms, these brothers should ensure that everyone is in a safe location, and if time permits, should obtain and distribute supplies that may be needed.

Afterward, book study conductors should locate each family and inquire of their well-being. The presiding overseer or another elder should be notified of the situation of each household, even if all is well. If someone has been injured, the elders will try to arrange for medical treatment. They will also provide any material things such as food, clothing, shelter, or household supplies that are needed. (John 13:35; Gal. 6:10) The local elders will give spiritual and emotional support to the congregation and will arrange as quickly as possible to resume congregation meetings. After a thorough evaluation has been made, an elder should contact the circuit overseer on behalf of the body of elders to apprise him of any injuries, damage to the Kingdom Hall, or damage to the homes of the brothers, as well as of any special needs. The circuit overseer will then telephone the branch office with a report of the situation. The branch office will coordinate any large-scale relief measures that are needed.

If a Disaster Strikes Elsewhere: Remember the brothers and sisters in your prayers. (2 Cor. 1:8-11) If you wish to provide monetary assistance, you may send your donations to the Society, where a relief fund is set aside for this purpose. The address is: Watchtower, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. (Acts 2:44, 45; 1 Cor. 16:1-3; 2 Cor. 9:5-7; see the December 1, 1985, *Watchtower*, pages 20-2.) Do not send materials or supplies to the disaster area unless specifically requested by the brothers in charge. This will assure an orderly relief effort and the proper distribution of goods. (1 Cor. 14:40) Please do not telephone the Society unnecessarily, as this can tie up phone lines that are needed to handle incoming calls from the disaster area.

After a proper assessment has been made, the Society will determine if a relief committee should be formed. Responsible brothers will be notified. All should cooperate with the elders taking the lead so that the critical needs of all the brothers are adequately met.—See *Jehovah's Witnesses—Proclaimers of God's Kingdom*, pages 310-15.

Presenting the Good News With a Sense of Urgency

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[1] We show our deep appreciation for God's Kingdom promises by sharing wholeheartedly in the Christian ministry. We need to participate in this work with a sense of urgency. Why? Because the workers are few, the end of this wicked system of things is drawing near, and the lives of those in our territory are at stake. (Ezek. 3:19; Matt. 9:37, 38) Such a weighty responsibility calls for our best effort in the ministry. How can we show a sense of urgency regarding our field service activity? By preparing good presentations in advance, by being diligent in searching out people wherever they may be found, by keeping an accurate record of all who show interest, by promptly returning to follow up that interest, and by remembering that since lives are involved, we should take our ministry seriously. The following suggestions may be helpful as we prepare to present the good news with a sense of urgency during February. The offer will be the book *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*

[2] ***You might be able to start a conversation by briefly mentioning some problems being faced in the community, and then you could say:***

■ "Many people believe that there is a God, but they wonder: 'What kind of future does he want for us?' How would you answer that? [Allow for response.] Did you know that the Bible clearly explains God's will for mankind and the steps he is taking to accomplish it?" Turn to page 301 in the *Revelation Climax* book. Read Revelation 21:1 in paragraph 1, and then read the explanation given for it in the last half of paragraph 2. Turn to the picture on page 302 to illustrate what this means for our future. Read Revelation 21:4 in paragraph 6. If there is good response, ~~offer the~~ book. Be sure to explain how our worldwide work is supported by donations. Arrange a convenient time to return to continue the conversation.

[3] ***You could ~~follow up~~ the previous discussion of Revelation 21: 1, 4 with this brief presentation:***

■ "On my last visit, we talked about God's promise to prepare a new earthly society for mankind. [Draw attention again to the picture on page 302 in the *Revelation Climax* book.] Would you like to see your family enjoy such conditions? [Allow for response.] The question is, How reliable are God's promises? Please note what he himself says." Read Revelation 21:5, 6a in paragraph 8 on page 303. Ask the printed question for paragraph 9 on page 304, and read the answer, including the last sentence of the paragraph. Mention the ~~offer of a free~~ Bible study. Arrange to demonstrate it later.

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[4] ***Since many are concerned about the growing problems facing mankind, you might say something like this on the initial call:***

■ "Nearly everyone is concerned about the problems we face in our community. [Mention a few.] For decades politicians have promised to bring about permanent solutions, and some have tried to do so. What do you think causes conditions to continue to worsen? [Allow for response.] The Bible offers an explanation that most people have never considered. The book of Revelation describes a war that took place in heaven. Notice the outcome, as stated at Revelation 12:9." Read the verse, then turn to page 182 in the *Revelation Climax* book. Use the picture to explain Satan's involvement in earth's affairs. If genuine interest is shown, offer the book and mention the donation arrangement. Make plans to return and discuss how God will solve mankind's problems.

[5] ***If you promised to return to explain God's solution for today's problems, you might try this approach:***

■ "I made a special effort to come back so that we could continue our discussion on the real solution for the problems facing mankind. On my last visit, we saw that the Bible identifies Satan the Devil as the one misleading the entire inhabited earth. Since he is a superhuman spirit creature, do you think there is a way for his influence to be removed? [Allow for response.] Please note what the Bible says." Read and explain Revelation 20:1-3. By using the picture on pages 4-5 of the *Knowledge* book, show what conditions will be like without Satan's influence. Offer a Bible study and endeavor to start it on the spot.

[6] ***With so many people interested in the environment, you could say something like this to open a conversation:***

■ "We have found that almost everyone is concerned about the pollution of our air, water, and food. In some countries the condition of the environment is already life-threatening. Since God is the Creator of the earth, what do you think he will do about this? [Allow for response.] The Bible says that God is going to call for an accounting of the way we use the planet. [Read Revelation 11:18b.] Imagine living on an earth that is free of all pollution!" Point out God's promise of a paradise, as indicated at Revelation 21:3, 4. Show the picture on page 302 in the *Revelation Climax* book. If the degree of interest warrants, offer the book and arrange to call back. Give the person an opportunity to make a donation.

[7] ***When returning to someone who showed interest in the Paradise earth, you might say:***

■ "On my last visit, we agreed that to solve the problem of a polluted earth, God will have to intervene in man's affairs. But the question is, What must we do to survive into the righteous new world of God's making?" Read John 17:3. Invite the householder to take advantage of our free Bible study course to gain this special knowledge.

[8] What a privilege it is to be used as modern-day harvest workers and to do a lifesaving preaching work! May all of us keep busy presenting the good news with a sense of urgency, 'knowing that our labor is not in vain.'—1 Cor. 15:58.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

March 1997 For United States of America Vol. 40, No. 3

"Build Up Your Household"

1 Without question, in every culture around the world, family life is disintegrating. Satan's world wallows in deceit and immorality. (1 John 5:19) This underscores the urgency for us to 'build up our household' and to teach others how they can do the same for theirs.—Prov. 24:3, 27.

2 **Bible Principles Are a Safeguard:** The secret of true family happiness is found in the application of Bible principles. These powerful truths benefit every member of the household in all aspects of life. The family that applies them will be happy and will enjoy godly peace.—Compare Isaiah 32:17, 18.

3 The principles that can help us build up our household are outlined in compact form in the new book, *The Secret of Family Happiness.* Each chapter concludes with a helpful teaching box that emphasizes principles that family members need to remember. Most of these boxes begin with the question, "How can these Bible principles help . . . ?" This draws attention to God's thoughts so that we get his thinking on the subject under discussion.—Isa. 48:17.

4 Become familiar with the book. Learn to locate the principles that can be of assistance when various problems arise. The book discusses such matters as these: what one should look for when considering a prospective marriage mate (chapter 2), what vital keys unlock the door to lasting marital happiness (chapter 3), how parents can raise their teenagers to be responsible, God-fearing adults (chapter 6), how to protect the family from destructive influences (chapter 8), principles to help single-parent families succeed (chapter 9), spiritual help for families troubled by alcoholism and violence (chapter 12), what to do when marriage ties are at the breaking point (chapter 13), what can be done to honor elderly parents (chapter 15), and how to secure a lasting future for one's family (chapter 16).

5 **Make Full Use of the New Book:** If you have not already done so, why not study the *Family Happiness* book together as a family? Also, whenever your family is confronted with new problems or challenges, review the chapters in the book that deal with these, and prayerfully consider how to apply the counsel. Additionally, during March, be generous in scheduling time for the field ministry so that you can endeavor to place *The Secret of Family Happiness* in the hands of as many people as possible.

6 Families that practice godly devotion will be spiritually strengthened and united and will be well prepared to cope with the attacks of Satan. (1 Tim. 4:7, 8; 1 Pet. 5:8, 9) How thankful we are that we have divine instruction from the Originator of the family!

"Show Yourselves Thankful"

1 Most of us were trained in childhood to say "please" and "thank you" when someone showed us courtesy or kindness. Paul admonishes us always to 'show ourselves thankful,' and we should especially be grateful to Jehovah. (Col. 3:15, 16) But how can we express thankfulness to our Grand Creator? And what special reasons do we have to be thankful to him?

2 The apostle Paul wrote: "Thanks to God, for he gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!" (1 Cor. 15:57) At Memorial time each year, we are reminded of the boundless love both God and Christ showed in providing the ransom that gives us the hope of eternal life. (John 3:16) Since almost all of us have lost loved ones in death, how thankful we are for Jesus' promise of the resurrection! Our hearts overflow with gratitude when we contemplate the prospect of surviving the end of this system without ever dying at all. (John 11:25, 26) It is difficult to find words to express thanks for all the marvelous blessings we will yet experience at Jehovah's hand in the coming earthly Paradise. (Rev. 21:4) What better reasons could anyone have to 'show himself thankful' to God?

3 **How to Express Thanks to God:** It is always appropriate to express our thanks in prayer to Jehovah for his goodness. (Ps. 136:1-3) We are moved, also, to demonstrate our thanks to him in other positive ways. For example, we will certainly be in attendance on Sunday, March 23, for the Memorial of Christ's death. To help meet the material needs of the local congregation and of the worldwide work, we gladly 'honor Jehovah with our valuable things.' (Prov. 3:9) We fully support the elders and cooperate with them, thus showing our gratitude to Jehovah for the help he provides through them. (1 Thess. 5:12, 13) Every day, we strive to maintain upright conduct that glorifies God's name. (1 Pet. 2:12) Jehovah is pleased with all these evidences of our gratitude.—1 Thess. 5:18.

4 **Our Finest Expression of Thanks:** Having a whole-souled share in the Kingdom-preaching work, honoring Jehovah's name, expressing gratitude in prayer, and loyally defending the truth are among the finest expressions of heartfelt thanks that we can make to our Creator for all that he has done in our behalf. Jehovah delights to see us render him acts of sacred service in support of his will "that all sorts of men should be saved." (1 Tim. 2:3, 4) That is why so many publishers who can arrange for it are answering the call that appeared in February's *Our Kingdom Ministry* to enroll as auxiliary pioneers during one or more of the months of March, April, and May. Putting forth an extra effort in the ministry is a fine way to 'show ourselves thankful' to God. Will you be able to join the ranks of the pioneers in April? in May?

5 We have been given a sure hope of living forever. When we see it come to pass, we will have further bountiful reasons every day to continue giving joyful thanks to Jehovah.—Ps. 79:13.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR MARCH

Week Starting March 3

Song 53

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Encourage all to begin inviting interested ones to the Memorial on March 23. Display a copy of the Memorial invitation, and urge all to obtain a supply and to begin distributing them this week.

15 min: "Build Up Your Household." Questions and answers. Include experiences from *1995 Yearbook,* page 228.

20 min: "Helping Families to Secure a Lasting Future." (Paragraphs 1-5) MS Make brief comments on paragraph 1, and then discuss how interest can be cultivated in the *Family Happiness* book by using the chapter titles, colorful illustrations, and review boxes. Have capable publishers demonstrate the presentations in paragraphs 2-5. Encourage all to make a special effort to place the book with families who have previously shown interest. Remember to mention the donation arrangement. DM

Song 71 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 10

Song 56 Hobson

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Remind all to be sure to follow the Memorial Bible reading scheduled for March 18-23, as outlined in *Examining the Scriptures Daily.*

20 min: "Show Yourselves Thankful." Questions and answers. All should put forth an earnest effort to invite Bible students, interested persons, favorable family members, and any of the brothers and sisters who are not actively associating with the congregation to attend the Memorial. Brief demonstration of publisher inviting interested person to the Memorial, using the Memorial invitation. Make additional comments on July 1, 1988, *Watchtower,* page 11, paragraphs 16-17. Encourage all who can to auxiliary pioneer in April and May. JA LH

15 min: "Helping Families to Secure a Lasting Future." (Paragraphs 6-8) Offer some suggestions showing how to offer the *Family Happiness* book when doing informal witnessing on the job, at school, in the park, or on public transportation, as well as when visiting relatives. Have a capable publisher demonstrate the presentations in paragraphs 6 and 7. The discussion on the return visit should help the person appreciate how a study of the Bible can strengthen family ties. Studies are to be conducted in the brochure *What Does God Require of Us?,* with the goal of transferring to the *Knowledge* book, or the study may be started in the *Knowledge* book itself.

Song 72 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 17

Song 63 CW

15 min: Local announcements. Review "Memorial Reminders," and outline local Memorial arrangements. All should make final plans to help Bible students and interested ones to attend.

15 min: Local needs. Or a talk by an elder on the article "Do You Really Need to Apologize?" from the September 15, 1996, *Watchtower,* pages 22-4. If your congregation is planning to share in working unassigned territory during July and August, this time can be used to review the letter of January 1, 1997, that outlines the arrangements being made for this activity.

15 min: Make Good Use of the *1997 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses.* Father reviews highlights covered in pages 3-9 with his family. Shows why we rejoice to see theocratic progress all around the world. Father explains how, during the coming year, they can take a few minutes each day at mealtime to read progressively through the *Yearbook* as well as to consider the daily text.

Song 75 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 24

Song 67 ZV

9 min: Local announcements. Explain that it is not too late to submit an application for auxiliary pioneering in April. Outline the additional arrangements that are being made locally for meetings for service during the month.

24 min: "Muster Up Boldness to Make Return Visits." (Paragraphs 1-20) Questions and answers. Briefly demonstrate paragraph 16.

12 min: Helping a New Publisher Get Started. Review paragraph 19 in the June 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert. Demonstrate how a capable publisher prepares a Bible student who has just been approved by the elders to be an unbaptized publisher. They review together the *Our Ministry* book, page 111, paragraph 2. The experienced publisher points out what will likely be encountered when sharing in house-to-house witnessing and that there is no need to be discouraged if most do not respond. Publisher relates an encouraging experience showing the joy that comes when we find a sincere person who will listen. Together they prepare a brief, simple magazine presentation and then practice it. Encouraging commendation is given and definite arrangements are made to share in field service together this week.

Song 89 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 31

Song 70 GW

15 min: Local announcements. Invite all interested ones to attend special public talk on April 6. Remind all to turn in their field service reports for March. Announce the names of all who are auxiliary pioneering in April. Review Question Box. OD

20 min: "Muster Up Boldness to Make Return Visits." (Paragraphs 21-35) Questions and answers. Review the box on page 3. Encourage all to count every return visit they have made during the month when reporting their field service. G-H

10 min: Review Literature Offer for April. Offer individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Briefly relate the suggestions on how to prepare magazine presentations that appear in paragraphs 3, 4, and 8 on page 8 of the October 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Have two publishers demonstrate one or two short presentations and mention the donation arrangement. Publishers should keep a record of those who accept magazines and add them to their magazine route.

Song 92 and concluding prayer.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.*

March 3:	**Chapters 70-72**
March 10:	**Chapters 73-75**
March 17:	**Chapters 76-78**
March 24:	**Chapters 79-81**
March 31:	**Chapters 82-84**

DECEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**182**	**120.4**	**97.8**	**50.1**	**4.3**
Pios.	**72,654**	**74.8**	**45.8**	**23.4**	**1.9**
Aux. Pios.	**19,207**	**56.5**	**35.9**	**14.5**	**1.1**
Pubs.	**836,656**	**8.9**	**6.8**	**3.4**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**928,699**		Baptized: **3,249**		

Muster Up Boldness to Make Return Visits

[1] Do you enjoy making return visits? Many publishers do. You may have been apprehensive at first, especially when calling back on householders who showed only limited interest when they were initially contacted. But as you 'muster up boldness by means of our God to speak the good news' in making return visits, you may be surprised to find how easy and rewarding this work can be. (1 Thess. 2:2) How so?

[2] For one thing, there is an important difference between a return visit and the initial call. The return visit is being made on an acquaintance, not on a stranger, and it is generally easier to converse with an acquaintance than with a stranger. As for the rich rewards that result from sharing in this work, return visits may lead to productive home Bible studies.

How to Be Successful in Making Return Visits

- Show a sincere personal interest in people.
- Select an appealing Bible subject to discuss.
- Lay the groundwork for each successive visit.
- Keep thinking about the person after you leave.
- Return in a day or two to follow up the interest.
- Keep in mind your objective is to start a Bible study.
- Pray for help to muster up boldness for this work. Jah's work

[3] When we work from house to house, we call repeatedly on people who were not interested when we previously visited them. Why, then, do we keep calling? We realize that people's circumstances change and that an individual who seemed indifferent or even opposed on a previous visit may be interested the next time we call. With that in mind, we prepare well and pray for Jehovah's blessing so that something we say this time will strike a responsive chord. How?

[4] If, in our house-to-house work, we willingly preach to people who previously showed no interest at all, should we not all the more willingly call back on anyone who shows some interest in the Kingdom message?—Acts 10:34, 35. Read - G not Partial?

[5] Many of us are in the truth today because a publisher patiently made return visits on us. If you are one of these, you may ask yourself: 'What initial impression did I make on that publisher? Did I immediately embrace the Kingdom message when I first heard it? Could I have seemed indifferent?' We should be happy that the publisher who called back judged us worthy of a return visit, 'mustered up boldness by means of God,' made the call, and proceeded to teach us the truth. What of those individuals who show some interest at first but later seem to be avoiding us? A positive attitude is vital, as the following experience bears out.

Q: When someone called on you -

[6] While engaging in street witnessing early one morning, two publishers met a young lady pushing a child in a stroller. The woman accepted a magazine and invited the sisters to come to her home the following Sunday. They arrived at the appointed time, but the householder told them she had no time to talk. She did promise, however, to be available the following week. The sisters were doubtful that she would keep the appointment, but the lady was waiting for them when they returned. A study was started, and the woman's progress was amazing. Within a short time, she began attending meetings regularly and sharing in field service. She is now baptized.

[7] **Lay Groundwork on the Initial Call:** The groundwork for a successful return visit is often laid on the initial call. Listen carefully to the householder's comments. What do they tell you? Is he religiously inclined? Is he concerned about social issues? Is he interested in science? history? the environment? At the conclusion of the call, you may raise a thought-provoking question and promise to discuss the Bible's answer when you return.

[8] For example, if the householder responds to the Bible's promise of a paradise earth, a further discussion of the topic may be in order. Just before you leave, you might ask: "How can we be sure that God will fulfill this promise?" Then add: "Perhaps I can stop by when the rest of the family is at home, and then I can show you the Bible's answer to this question."

[9] If the householder has not shown interest in any particular subject, you could raise one of the questions that are featured in the presentations on the back page of *Our Kingdom Ministry* and use that as the basis for your next discussion.

10 **Keep Accurate Written Records:** Your house-to-house record should be accurate and complete. ①Write down the name and address of the householder as soon as you leave the call. Do not guess at the house number or the street name②check the information to be sure that it is accurate.③Write a description of the individual.④Make note of the topic you discussed⑤the scriptures you read, ⑥any literature you left, and the⑦question you will answer when you return. Include the⑧day and time of the initial call and when you said you would call back. Now that your record is complete, don't lose it!⑨Put it in a safe place so that you can refer to it later. Keep thinking about the individual and how you will handle the call the next time.

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11 **Know What Your Objectives Are:** First, by being warm and friendly, do your best to put the householder at ease. Show that you are interested in him as a person, without being unduly familiar. Next, remind him of any question you raised on the previous visit. Listen carefully to his opinion, and express sincere appreciation for his comments. Then, show why the Bible's viewpoint is practical. If possible, direct him to a related thought in the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* Keep well in mind that your main objective on return visits is to start a Bible study.

12 The directness of the *Knowledge* book has inspired many of us to 'muster up boldness' on Bible studies to encourage students to attend meetings and associate with Jehovah's organization. In the past, we tended to wait until individuals had studied for quite some time before inviting them to associate with us. Now, many students are attending meetings as soon as they begin to study, and they are progressing much faster as a result.

¶ 13 A couple witnessed informally to a coworker. When he expressed interest in the truth, they invited him to have a Bible study in the *Knowledge* book. At the same time, they told him he ought to be attending the meetings, where many of his questions would be answered. The man willingly not only accepted their invitation to study but also studied twice a week and began attending meetings regularly at the Kingdom Hall.

How related?

14 **Use the Brochure (*What Does God Require of Us?*):** At the "Messengers of Godly Peace" District Conventions, we received the brochure *What Does God Require of Us?* This brochure is useful in starting Bible studies with God-fearing people regardless① of their level of education. It contains a well-rounded study course, covering the②basic teachings of the Bible. The publication will be a very effective tool for imparting③the knowledge of God. It explains the truth so clearly and simply that virtually④every one of us will be able to use it to teach others God's requirements. Likely, many publishers will have the privilege of conducting a Bible study in this brochure.

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15 Some individuals who feel that they do not have the time to study the *Knowledge* book may be willing to have brief sessions studying the *Require* brochure. They will be thrilled at what they learn! In just two or three pages, they will find answers to questions that people have pondered for centuries: Who is God? Who is the Devil? What is God's purpose for the earth? What is the Kingdom of God? How can you find the true religion? Although the brochure presents the truth in simple terms, its message is very powerful. It covers key points that the elders will review with candidates for baptism and can serve as a springboard for a more thorough study in the *Knowledge* book.

16 ***To offer a study on a return visit, you could simply say:*** "Did you know that by taking just a few minutes, you can have the answer to an important Bible question?" Then, pose a question that appears at the beginning of one of the lessons in the brochure. For example, if you are calling on an older person, you might say: "We know that in the past Jesus healed people. But in the future, what will Jesus do for the sick? the elderly? the dead?" The answers are found in lesson 5. A religiously inclined person may be intrigued by the question: "Does God listen to all prayers?" It is answered in lesson 7. Family members will want to know: "What does God require of parents and of children?" They will find out as they study lesson 8. Other questions are: "Can the dead harm the living?" explained in lesson 11; "Why are there so many religions that claim to be Christian?" discussed in lesson 13; and "What must you do to become a friend of God?" covered in lesson 16.

17 **Help Those Who Speak Another Language:** What about householders who speak another language? If possible, they should be taught in the language they know best. (1 Cor. 14:9) The city overseer (or in a rural area, the circuit overseer) may be able to provide information regarding foreign-language congregations and groups in the area. The secretary would then be able to forward any Foreign Language Follow-Up Slips (S-70a) he receives from congregation members to the appropriate foreign-language congregation or group. If there are no congregations or groups nearby and there are no local publishers who can speak the language of the householder, the publisher can try to study with the householder, using the *Require* brochure in the two languages.

18 An English-speaking publisher started a study with a man who speaks Vietnamese and with his wife, who speaks Thai. Publications and Bibles in English, Vietnamese, and Thai were used during the study. Although the language barrier presented a

"Be speaking in air" 1 Cor

challenge at first, the publisher writes: "The couple's spiritual growth has been immediate. They have seen the need to start attending meetings with their two children, and they are reading the Bible nightly as a family. Their six-year-old daughter conducts her own Bible study."

19 When studying with people who speak another language, speak slowly, articulate clearly, and use simple words and phrases. Bear in mind, however, that people who speak another language should be treated with dignity. They should not be treated as if they were infants.

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20 Make good use of the beautiful illustrations in the *Require* brochure. If "a picture is worth a thousand words," the scores of illustrations in the brochure will speak volumes to the householder. Invite him to read the scriptures in his own Bible. If the study can be conducted at a time when a family member who knows English is available to interpret, that will no doubt be beneficial.—See *Our Kingdom Ministry,* October 1990, pages 7-8; March 1984, page 8.

21 **Make Return Visits Without Delay:** How long should you wait before making a return visit? Some publishers call back within a day or two of the initial contact. Others return later on the same day! Is that too soon? Generally, householders do not seem to mind. Often it is the publisher making the call who needs to cultivate a more positive attitude along with a little boldness. Consider the following experiences.

22 A 13-year-old publisher was working from house to house one day when he saw two women walking together. Mindful of the encouragement to preach to people wherever we find them, he approached the women on the street. They showed interest in the Kingdom message, and each accepted a *Knowledge* book. The young brother obtained their addresses, returned two days later, and started a Bible study with each of them.

23 One sister makes arrangements to call back the following week. But a day or two after the original call, she stops by to give the householder a magazine on the subject they discussed previously. She tells the householder: "I saw this article and thought you would like to read it. I can't stop to talk now, but I'll be back on Wednesday afternoon as planned. Is that time still all right with you?"

24 When an individual shows interest in the truth, we can be sure that he will encounter opposition in one form or another. Our calling back soon after the initial contact is made will strengthen him to withstand any pressures he faces from relatives, close friends, and others.

25 **Cultivate Interest of Those Found in Public Places:** Many of us enjoy preaching on the streets, in parking lots, on public transportation, in shopping centers, in parks, and so forth. In addition to placing literature, we need to cultivate interest. To that end, an effort should be made to obtain the name, the address and, if possible, the telephone number of every interested person we meet. It is not as difficult as you might think to obtain this information. As the conversation is coming to a close, take out your notebook and ask: "Is there any way we can continue this conversation at another time?" Or say: "I would like you to read an article that I am sure will interest you. May I bring it to your home or office?" One brother simply asks: "At what number can you be reached?" He reports that in three months all but three persons were happy to give him their phone number.

26 **Use the Telephone to Find and Develop Interest:** A pioneer sister uses the telephone to reach people living in high-security buildings. She also makes return visits in the same way. On the initial call, she says: "I know you don't know me. I am making a special effort to contact people in your area to share a thought from the Bible. If you have a moment, I would like to read the promise found at . . ." After reading the scripture, she says: "Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could see that time come? I have enjoyed reading this to you. If you have enjoyed it too, I would like to call again and discuss another scripture."

27 On the return phone call, she reminds the householder of their previous conversation and says she would like to read from the Bible what conditions will be like when wickedness is done away with. Then she has a brief Bible discussion with the householder. Over the course of many telephone conversations, 35 people have invited her to their home and seven home Bible studies have been started! Is it sometimes difficult for you to make return visits on interested persons during the cold winter months because of impassable roads, icy conditions, or sickness? If so, why not keep in touch with them by telephone?

28 **Follow Up Interest Found in Business Places:** Much more is involved in working from store to store than simply offering magazines. Many shopkeepers have a sincere interest in the truth, and that interest must be cultivated. In some cases, it may be possible to have a Bible discussion or even a study right on the premises. In other cases, you and the interested person may be able to meet during the noon break or at some other convenient time.

29 A traveling overseer called on the owner of a small grocery store and offered to demonstrate a Bible study. When asked how long the demonstration would take, the traveling overseer said it

would take just 15 minutes. With that, the storekeeper hung a sign on the door: "Back in 20 Minutes," pulled up a couple of chairs, and the two of them discussed the first five paragraphs of the *Knowledge* book. This sincere man was so impressed by what he learned that he attended the Public Meeting and *Watchtower* Study that Sunday and agreed to continue the study the following week.

30 ***To offer a study in a business place, you might say this:*** "Our Bible study program takes just 15 minutes to demonstrate. If it is convenient, I will be glad to show you how it is done." Then, stick to the time limit. If it is not possible to have a long discussion in a place of business, it may be more appropriate to call on the shopkeeper at his home.

31 **Call Back Even When No Literature Has Been Placed:** Every spark of interest deserves a return visit, whether literature has been placed or not. Of course, if it becomes clear that the householder really is not interested in the Kingdom message, it is best to direct your efforts elsewhere.

32 In the door-to-door work, a sister met a lady who was very friendly but who firmly refused the offer of the magazines. The publisher writes: "For days I thought about her and decided I wanted to talk to her again." Finally, the sister prayed, took courage, and knocked at the lady's door. To her delight the householder invited her inside. A Bible study was started, and it was conducted again the following day. In time, the householder came into the truth.

33 **Plan Ahead to Get the Most Accomplished:** It is recommended that some time be spent each week in making return visits. Much can be accomplished with good planning. Line up calls in the same area where you will be working from house to house. When working from an automobile, the group should be kept small so that each one will have a full opportunity to make return visits. The driver should know in advance where the return visits will be made so that unnecessary driving can be avoided.

34 Those who are successful in making return visits and in starting home Bible studies say that it is essential to show a sincere personal interest in people and to keep thinking about them even after the call is made. It is also necessary to have an appealing Bible subject to discuss and to lay the groundwork for the return visit before leaving the initial call. Further, it is important to return promptly to follow up the interest. The objective of starting a Bible study must always be kept well in mind.

35 A vital quality for success in the return visit work is boldness. How is it acquired? The apostle Paul answers by saying that we 'muster up boldness' to declare the good news to others "by means of our God." If you need to grow in this area, pray to Jehovah for help. Then, in harmony with your prayers, follow up all interest. Jehovah will surely bless your efforts!

North America to Host International Conventions in 1998

As was announced on Saturday, October 5, 1996, at the annual meeting of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, the Governing Body is planning to hold international conventions during 1998. Along with the usual district conventions, a number of international conventions will be held in North America as well as in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean area, and the South Pacific.

Several of these special conventions will be held in North America, and delegates from around the world will be invited. Also, we can anticipate having missionaries at these international conventions. Missionaries and others in foreign special service who qualify will be invited to attend one of these conventions in or near their home country.

Additional information regarding dates, locations, delegate qualifications, arrangements for foreign delegates, and other details will be forthcoming. There will be opportunity for a limited number of delegates from the United States to attend international conventions in other countries. Those publishers having in mind filling out applications for delegate selection may wish to start saving some of their funds in anticipation of these special events.

NEW PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

- New Publications Available:

Enjoy Life on Earth Forever! —Guaymi
Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life —Chichewa
My Book of Bible Stories (Small size) —Laotian
The Secret of Family Happiness —Estonian, Indonesian, Latvian
What Does God Require of Us? —Hmong, Indonesian, Quechua, Sindhi
When Someone You Love Dies —Gujarati

- New Videocassettes Available:

Jehovah's Witnesses—The Organization Behind the Name —Romanian
Purple Triangles —Korean
The Bible—Mankind's Oldest Modern Book —Romanian
The New World Society in Action —German, Italian, Portuguese
To the Ends of the Earth —Thai

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **March:** *The Secret of Family Happiness.* **April and May:** Individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* For midweek service and in territory that is covered frequently, the brochure *What Does God Require Of Us?* may be used. **June:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* Concentrate on starting home Bible studies.
- The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on March 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. Make announcement to the congregation when this has been done.
- The special public talk for the Memorial season this year will be presented in most congregations on Sunday, April 6. The talk is entitled "Keep Clean From Worldly Defilements." All of us should attend, and we should assist interested ones who came to the Memorial to be present for the talk.
- In order to get the most out of congregation studies in the *Greatest Man* book, please consider the excellent guidelines appearing on page 1 of the September 1992 *Our Kingdom Ministry.* The article explains how to prepare each lesson and the format the Congregation Book Study will follow.
- Ever since the Society Kingdom Hall Fund was established in 1983, the brothers have contributed generously, thus enabling loans to be made for Kingdom Hall construction. Already some 2,700 congregations in this country have benefited from this arrangement. Many congregations could not otherwise build new Kingdom Halls or renovate those in need of repair. There is now an urgent need to use some of these contributed funds to provide loans to congregations in economically depressed countries. Your continued support of this arrangement is greatly appreciated by the Society and by those congregations that benefit from your contributions.

QUESTION BOX

- When the congregation is called upon to assist in arranging for a funeral, the following questions may arise:

Who should give the funeral discourse? This is a decision to be made by family members. They may select any baptized brother in good standing. If the body of elders are asked to provide a speaker, they will usually select a capable elder to give a talk based on the Society's outline. Although not eulogizing the deceased, it may be appropriate to call attention to exemplary qualities he or she displayed.

May the Kingdom Hall be used? It can if permission has been granted by the body of elders and if it does not interfere with a regularly scheduled meeting. The hall may be used if the deceased had a clean reputation and was a member of the congregation or the minor child of a member. If the individual had caused public notoriety by unchristian conduct, or if other factors exist that might reflect unfavorably on the congregation, the elders may decide not to allow the use of the hall.—See *Our Ministry* book, pages 62-3.

Ordinarily, Kingdom Halls are not used for funerals of unbelievers. An exception might be made if surviving family members are actively associated as baptized publishers, the deceased was known by a fair number in the congregation to have had a favorable attitude toward the truth and a good reputation for upright conduct in the community, and no worldly customs are incorporated into the program.

When granting use of the Kingdom Hall, the elders will consider whether it is customarily expected to see the casket present at the funeral. If it is, they might permit it to be brought into the hall.

What about funerals for worldly people? If the deceased had a good reputation in the community, a brother might give a comforting Bible talk at the funeral home or graveside. The congregation will decline to handle a funeral for one who was known for immoral, unlawful conduct or whose life-style grossly conflicted with Bible principles. A brother certainly would not share with a clergyman in conducting an interfaith service nor in any funeral conducted in a church of Babylon the Great.

What if the deceased was disfellowshipped? The congregation would generally not be involved. The Kingdom Hall would not be used. If the person had been giving evidence of repentance and manifesting a desire to be reinstated, a brother's conscience might allow him to give a Bible talk at the funeral home or graveside, to give a witness to unbelievers and to comfort the relatives. Before making this decision, however, it would be wise for the brother to consult with the body of elders and give consideration to what they may recommend. In situations where it would not be wise for that brother to be involved, it may be appropriate for a brother *who is a member of the deceased person's family* to give a talk to console the relatives.

Further direction can be found in the *Watchtower* issues of October 15, 1990, pages 30-1; September 15, 1981, page 31; March 15, 1980, pages 5-7; June 1, 1978, pages 5-8; June 1, 1977, pages 347-8; March 15, 1970, pages 191-2; and *Awake!* of September 8, 1990, pages 22-3 and March 22, 1977, pages 12-15.

Memorial Reminders

The Memorial observance falls on Sunday, March 23. The elders should give attention to the following matters:

- In setting the time for the meeting, make sure that the emblems will not be passed until after sundown.
- Everyone, including the speaker, should be informed of the exact time and location for the observance.
- The appropriate type of bread and wine should be obtained and made ready.—See the February 15, 1985, *Watchtower,* page 19.
- Plates, glasses, and a suitable table and tablecloth should be brought to the hall and put in place in advance.
- The Kingdom Hall or other place of meeting should be thoroughly cleaned ahead of time.
- Attendants and servers should be selected and instructed in advance about the proper procedure and their duties.
- Arrangements should be made to serve any of the anointed who are infirm and unable to be present.
- When more than one celebration is scheduled in the same Kingdom Hall, there should be good coordination among congregations so as to avoid unnecessary congestion in the lobby, entryway, public sidewalks, and parking lot.

Helping Families to Secure a Lasting Future

1 “Greed is healthy,” a financier told a college graduating class, adding: “You can be greedy and still feel good about yourself.” That is typical of how the world promotes self-interest as the way to ensure one’s future. In sharp contrast, Jesus taught that a Christian must “disown himself . . . for what benefit will it be to a man if he gains the whole world but forfeits his soul?” (Matt. 16:24-26) To secure a lasting future, a person must center his whole life on doing the will of God —the most important goal for families today. (Ps. 143: 10; 1 Tim. 4:8) That message is conveyed in the concluding chapter of the book *The Secret of Family Happiness.* This new publication helps people see what really matters in life and how they can act beneficially toward their families. As we continue to preach the good news everywhere, what can we say that will encourage those we meet to read the *Family Happiness* book? Here are some suggestions:

2 ***Both at the door and on the street, you might try using the tract “Enjoy Family Life” to start conversations. You could ask:***

- “With all the anxieties that modern living brings upon us, do you feel that it is possible to have a really happy family life? [Allow for response.] This tract assures us that it is possible. Would you like to read it?” If it is accepted, you could continue by saying: “Since you are interested in this subject, you may also enjoy this book that provides detailed advice on how to find happiness in the family circle.” Show the table of contents in the *Family Happiness* book. Point out a few eye-catching chapter titles. Turn to page 10, and read from the last sentence of paragraph 17 to the end of paragraph 18. Offer the book, and mention the donation arrangement. Explain that you have more to share, and ask when you could get in touch again.

3 ***You could follow up your initial conversation about happy family life by saying:***

- “I would like to point out something in the book you obtained that I think you will appreciate. The last chapter focuses on the real secret of family happiness. [Read paragraph 2 on page 183.] Note that working together to do God’s will is the key. We recommend that families study the Bible together to learn what God’s will is and how to apply it in the household. We offer a free Bible study course that takes only a few months to complete. If you will allow me, I’ll show you how it’s conducted.” Return with the brochure *What Does God Require of Us?* or the *Knowledge* book, whichever would be more appropriate.

4 ***When talking to classmates at school or to youths in the territory, you might get a response to this question:***

- “How important is it for parents and their children to keep open the lines of communication with one another? [Allow for response.] Notice what this handbook on family life says about the subject of ‘Honest and Open Communication.’ [Read all of paragraph 4 and the first sentence of paragraph 5 on page 65 in the *Family Happiness* book.] The paragraphs that follow provide practical suggestions on how to improve communication within a family. This book is entitled *The Secret of Family Happiness.* If you would like to read it and promise to do so, you may have this copy to keep.” Explain that you will follow up later to get his comments on what he reads.

5 ***You could build on your initial conversation with a youth about parent-child communication by saying this:***

- “I appreciated the interest you showed in the importance of having good communication within your family. What would you say is the most important subject that parents and children should discuss?” Allow for response. Then turn to page 68 in the *Family Happiness* book, and read the answer that is found in the first half of paragraph 11. “Having a weekly Bible study is an excellent way to acquire knowledge of God.” Present the brochure *What Does God Require of Us?* Explain that its 16 lessons provide a basic outline of the Bible’s message. Read the introduction on page 2, and then discuss together the first lesson.

6 ***If you meet a parent in the house-to-house work, or perhaps at a park or a playground, you might arouse interest by saying:***

- “I’m sure you’ll agree that rearing children today is a real challenge. What do you think can protect your family from unwholesome influences? [Allow for response.] Here is some sound advice that I have appreciated.” Relate the illustration in paragraph 1, and read paragraph 2 on page 90 in the *Family Happiness* book. Explain how it gives balanced direction that really works to protect families from destructive influences. Offer to leave a copy, and make yourself available to answer any questions that arise.

7 ***On your second visit with a parent who accepted the “Family Happiness” book, you could continue the conversation in this way:***

- “When we first met, I could see that you genuinely care about your children and that you want to do all you can to protect them from wrong influences. You may not have read it yet, but there is a very important observation made in the book I left with you that you should see. [Read paragraph 19 on page 59.] Developing a relationship with God requires our getting to know him through the pages of his written Word, the Bible. Would you like to have me demonstrate how we study the Bible as a family?”

8 Worldly advisers cannot show families the way to happiness but will surely leave them disappointed. Let us give the *Family Happiness* book wide distribution so that people everywhere can be helped by God’s Word to secure a lasting future.—1 Tim. 6:19.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

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Multitudes Are Being Added

[1] As was true in the first century, the growth that the Christian congregation is experiencing today is phenomenal. (Acts 2:41; 4:4) Last year, 366,579 new disciples were baptized, an average of over 1,000 each day! More than one million were baptized in the last three years. Indeed, Jehovah has kept on adding multitudes of believers.—Acts 5:14.

[2] The many new ones who lack experience in Christian living need assistance and training from those who are strong in the faith. (Rom. 15:1) Among the early Christians were some who, even years after their baptism, had failed to "press on to maturity." (Heb. 5:12; 6:1) That is why, in his letter to the Hebrews, Paul highlighted areas in which Christians need to grow spiritually. What are these, and how can needed help be offered?

[3] **Acquiring Good Study Habits:** In harmony with Paul's instruction, being a good student involves actively learning, repeating, and using the "solid food" provided by Jehovah's organization. (Heb. 5:13, 14; see the August 15, 1993, *Watchtower,* pages 12-17.) By engaging new believers in spiritual conversations and sharing with them precious gems of truth that you have uncovered through personal research, you may stimulate them to acquire good study habits. Perhaps occasionally you could invite a new one to join you in your personal or family study.

[4] **Attending Meetings Regularly:** Your faithful example and loving words of encouragement will help new members of the congregation to avoid another area of concern mentioned by Paul—"the custom" some have of missing Christian meetings. (Heb. 10: 24, 25) Help them to appreciate that the meetings are their spiritual lifeline to the congregation. Take the initiative to make them feel welcome as part of our brotherhood.

[5] **Approaching Jehovah With Confidence:** To overcome fleshly weaknesses and personality flaws, we must seek Jehovah in prayer, expressing to him our deepest thoughts and most intimate concerns. New ones must learn that by supplicating Jehovah for help, as Paul urged, they need not falter. (Heb. 4:15, 16; 10:22) Relating your personal experiences in this regard will strengthen a new one's confidence that Jehovah hears heartfelt prayers.

[6] **Allocating Time for the Ministry:** Paul also showed that when we "always offer to God a sacrifice of praise," it is spiritually strengthening. (Heb. 13:15) Can you invite a new publisher to join you in your weekly arrangements for field service? Perhaps the two of you could prepare your presentations or consider a feature of the ministry that the newer one has not yet tried.

[7] The multitudes being added are a cause for great joy. Our expending ourselves in training and exhorting new members of the congregation will help them to develop the strong faith needed to 'preserve alive their souls.' —Heb. 3:12, 13; 10:39.

Help Inexperienced Ones Understand

[1] By means of the disciple-making work, we teach others what God requires of them. (Matt. 28:19, 20) A tremendous effort to do that is being put forth worldwide by more than five million Witnesses. Success is not measured by the hours spent, the literature placed, or the Bible studies started. We achieve our objective when people understand and act upon what they learn.

[2] Helping others spiritually involves "making the inexperienced ones understand." (Ps. 119:130) Hearts are touched and people are motivated only when they "get the sense of it." (Matt. 15:10) As our work expands and intensifies, we come to appreciate more and more the need to speak and teach with simplicity. That is why the Society has published the brochure *What Does God Require of Us?* It contains a well-rounded study course that covers the fundamental teachings of the Bible. The lessons are short, the wording is uncomplicated, and the instruction is easy to comprehend, giving the brochure wide appeal.

[3] This brochure will be featured along with the magazines during the months of April and May. It is recommended that when you plan your weekly service activity, you arrange to offer the magazines on Saturdays but feature the brochure in your ministry during the rest of the week. Take the brochure to people who have readily accepted literature in the past. Remember that it can be especially useful in teaching children, people who speak a foreign language, and those who have limited reading ability.

[4] **Use a Simple Approach:** When presenting the *Require* brochure, refer to page 2, where it explains that "this brochure is designed as a Bible study course." Point to paragraph 3 on page 3 to show why the person needs to study the Bible. Stir his interest with some of the lesson titles that reveal simple Bible truths. Demonstrate how this brochure makes learning a pleasure, and offer to give him personal help.

[5] **Conduct a Progressive Study:** Our goal is to do more than just conduct studies—we want to make disciples who will become firm supporters of true worship. The brochure can be covered in a matter of weeks and should lead right into a study of the *Knowledge* book. (See the footnote on page 31.) Right from the start, help the student identify Jehovah's organization. (See *Reasoning* book, pages 283-4.) Emphasize the value of congregation meetings, and explain that attending them provides a comprehensive understanding of how to practice true worship.—Heb. 10:24, 25.

[6] A full share in this special work during April and May is sure to bring us the joy that comes from helping sincere ones to "acquire understanding" that leads to life.—Prov. 4:5.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR APRIL

Week Starting April 7

Song 100

12 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Mention talking points in current magazines.

15 min: "Multitudes Are Being Added." Questions and answers. Review key suggestions covered in August 15, 1993, *Watchtower,* pages 12-17.

18 min: "Help Inexperienced Ones Understand." Questions and answers. Review features of the *Require* brochure: simplified study method, timely questions, appealing illustrations, abundant Scripture references. Stress the goal of starting studies that eventually lead into the *Knowledge* book. Have a capable publisher demonstrate how to start a study using the approach outlined in paragraph 4. Encourage all parents in the congregation to study the brochure with their young children.

Song 130 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 14

Song 107

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. As time permits, briefly relate local field experiences about placing the *Require* brochure or starting Bible studies using it.

15 min: "Directing Students to the Organization Behind Our Name." (Paragraphs 1-6) Questions and answers. Read paragraphs 5-6 and the cited scriptures. Relate local experiences about the reaction of Bible students to seeing the video *Jehovah's Witnesses—The Organization Behind the Name.*

20 min: "Teach Others What God Requires." Audience discussion of paragraphs 1-4. Have presentations in paragraph 5 demonstrated, using four different settings—on the street, at a house, in a business place, and at a park. Remind all to pick up brochures and magazines for field service before leaving the Kingdom Hall tonight.

Song 126 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 21

Song 113

15 min: Local announcements. Explain that it is not too late to submit an application for auxiliary pioneering in May. Review the Question Box, and let the congregation know if certain books are needed to fill out the library in the Kingdom Hall.

15 min: "Directing Students to the Organization Behind Our Name." (Paragraphs 7-14) Questions and answers. Have a capable teacher demonstrate how to have a kindly heart-to-heart discussion with a student about the need to attend meetings.

15 min: Making Full Use of Our Literature. Talk by an elder. (See September 1995 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* pages 3-5.) Reports show that congregations often order many more magazines than they actually distribute each month. Up to 50 percent are never reported as placements. (Show what the statistics indicate locally.) What happens to these magazines? Many end up on a shelf or are thrown away. How can this be avoided? Each publisher should carefully estimate his needs and order only what he can place. Make it a practice to offer magazines to all we contact. Do not let older issues go to waste. Share in magazine service regularly. Bear in mind that we need to mention the donation arrangement and to turn in all donations promptly.

Song 128 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 28

Song 121

15 min: Local announcements. Remind all to turn in their field service reports for April. Announce the names of those who will auxiliary pioneer in May. Outline the additional arrangements that are being made locally for meetings for service. During May a special effort should be made to follow up brochure placements with the goal of starting studies. Briefly suggest ways we can tactfully request the name and address of people we witness to informally. You could give your name and address first and ask if there is a phone number where they can be reached. Invite audience to offer other suggestions that have worked for them.

15 min: "Why Do They Do It?" An elder discusses article with two or three regular pioneers. (If not available, use ones who enroll often as auxiliary pioneers.) Include highlights from article "Pioneers Bestow and Receive Blessings," in the January 15, 1994, *Watchtower.* Have each one explain why he or she has taken up the pioneer service. Ask them to relate experiences showing how they have been blessed for doing so.

15 min: Local needs. Elders may use this time to present information on specific local needs.

Song 129 and concluding prayer.

Why Do They Do It?

1 It was foretold about the Christ that 'sheer zeal for God's house would eat him up.' (Ps. 69:9) Jesus' zeal for the true worship of Jehovah impelled him to put the ministry first. (Luke 4:43; John 18:37) This same zeal to bear witness to the truth is reflected today in the ministry of Jehovah's Witnesses. Last service year, an average of 645,509 worldwide shared in some form of pioneer service each month. In view of our dedication to God, each of us should prayerfully consider whether we can arrange our circumstances in order to serve as an auxiliary or a regular pioneer. —Ps. 110:3; Eccl. 12:1; Rom. 12:1.

2 Living in a system of things that is selfishly materialistic, many in the world find it hard to understand why anyone would work so hard in the ministry for something that brings no monetary benefits and no glory. Why do pioneers do it? They know that they are engaged in a lifesaving work. Motivated by deep love for Jehovah and for their fellowman, they feel a strong, personal obligation to help save lives. (Rom. 1:14-16; 1 Tim. 2:4; 4:16) A pioneer couple summed it up well by saying: "Why are we pioneering? Could we ever justify it before Jehovah if we did not?"

3 Another sister wrote this about her decision to start pioneering: "My husband and I made plans to live on a single income, which meant giving up all nonessentials. Yet, Jehovah richly blessed us, never abandoning us to poverty or need. . . . I have found a real reason for living—that of helping needy ones to come to know that Jehovah, the true God, is not far from those who seek him." Seeing the urgency of the times, pioneers are content with the necessities of life while they earnestly seek to acquire spiritual treasures that will last forever.—1 Tim. 6:8, 18, 19.

4 If your personal circumstances permit, why not join the hundreds of thousands of your brothers and sisters worldwide who are pioneering? That way you can experience their same joy.

Directing Students to the Organization Behind Our Name

P

hat shows we are worldwide?

¹ "It is a message spoken in more than 200 languages. It is a message heard in more than 210 lands. It is a message delivered personally wherever people may be found. It is all part of the greatest preaching campaign the world has ever known, a message uniting millions earth wide. Jehovah's Witnesses have been organized to accomplish this work for more than a hundred years!"

² Thus begins the narration of the video *Jehovah's Witnesses—The Organization Behind the Name*. It proceeds to answer the questions: Who really are Jehovah's Witnesses? How is their activity organized? Directed? Financed? It impresses upon viewers the fact that "Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide have been trained as an organization to assist their neighbors to build faith in the Bible," and it encourages them to see for themselves the organization behind our name. After seeing this video, a woman who was studying burst into tears of joy and appreciation and said: "How can anyone not see that this *is* the organization of the true God, Jehovah?"—Compare 1 Corinthians 14:24, 25. R

Students make faster spiritual progress when they see the organization for themselves

³ Another woman had studied the Bible off and on for a long time, but she could not accept the fact that the Trinity is a false doctrine. Then she and her husband were shown our video. They were very impressed with the presentation and watched it twice the same night. At their next study, the wife expressed her desire to become a Witness. She said she had been focusing on her belief in the Trinity and failed to look at our organization and the people in it. From the video she realized that she had found God's true organization. She wanted to start preaching from house to house right away. After it was explained to her what the necessary steps are for becoming an unbaptized publisher, she said: "Let's get busy with it." She resigned from her church, started in the field service activity, and became proficient at refuting the Trinity.

⁴ It has been well established that Bible students make better spiritual progress and grow to maturity more rapidly when they recognize Jehovah's organization and associate with it. Significantly, after the 3,000 were baptized at Pentecost, "they continued devoting themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to association together." (Acts 2:42, ftn.) It is essential that we help students to do the same today. How can we?

⁵ **Shoulder the Responsibility:** Every disciple maker must realize that it is his responsibility to direct the Bible student to God's organization. (1 Tim. 4:16) Each study session should be viewed as a stepping-stone toward the happy day when the new one will symbolize his dedication to Jehovah by water baptism. One of the questions that he will be asked during the baptism ceremony is: "Do you understand that your dedication and baptism identify you as one of Jehovah's Witnesses in association with God's spirit-directed organization?" Hence, it is important that he realize he cannot serve God without actively associating with the true Christian congregation.—Matt. 24:45-47; John 6:68; 2 Cor. 5:20.

⁶ Continue to educate the student about the local congregation and the international organization behind Jehovah's Witnesses. Do this at each Bible study session, beginning with the first one. From the very start, invite the student to the meetings, and keep on inviting him.—Rev. 22:17. R

⁷ **Use the Tools That Are Provided:** Our best publications for use in conducting home Bible studies are the brochure *What Does God Require of Us?* and the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. Both highlight the need for association with the congregation. The end of lesson 5 in the *Require* brochure states: "You need to keep learning about Jehovah and obeying his requirements. Attending meetings at the local Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses will help you to do so." The *Knowledge* book repeatedly encourages the student to associate at meetings. Chapter 5, paragraph 22, extends this invitation: "Jehovah's Witnesses . . . warmly urge you to

[illegible]

share with them in worshiping God 'with spirit and truth.' (John 4:24)" Chapter 12, paragraph 16, states: "As you continue this study and make it your custom to attend the meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses, your faith will be fortified even more." Chapter 16, paragraph 20, says: "Make it your custom to attend the meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses." It adds: "This will help you to understand and then apply the knowledge of God in your life and will bring you happiness. Being a part of the worldwide Christian brotherhood will help you to stay close to Jehovah." Chapter 17 thoroughly discusses how one finds true security among God's people. As we study with others, it is our responsibility to emphasize these portions of the material.

[8] The brochure *Jehovah's Witnesses—Unitedly Doing God's Will Worldwide* is a fine tool that has been produced to acquaint individuals with the only visible organization Jehovah is using today to accomplish his will. The detailed information it contains about our ministry, meetings, and organization will encourage the reader to associate with us in worshiping God. Once a Bible study is established, it is recommended that we give the student a copy of this brochure to read on his own. There is no need to study it with him as was done in the past.

Do not delay inviting students to attend meetings

[9] Some of the videos that the Society has produced are excellent tools for directing students to the organization behind our name. It would be good if they could watch (1) *The New World Society in Action,* the review of the 1954 film that captured the smooth, efficient, and loving spirit with which Jehovah's organization functions; (2) *United by Divine Teaching,* which examines the peaceful unity that has been displayed at our international conventions in Eastern Europe, South America, Africa, and Asia; (3) *To the Ends of the Earth,* which marked the 50th anniversary of the Watchtower Bible School of Gilead and shows the effect the missionaries have had on the worldwide preaching work; (4) *Jehovah's Witnesses Stand Firm Against Nazi Assault,* which tells the thrilling story of the Witnesses' courage and triumph in the face of Hitler's brutal persecution of them; and, of course, (5) *Jehovah's Witnesses—The Organization Behind the Name.*

[10] **Set Progressive Goals Regarding Meetings:** It has to be explained to students that we need both the private tutoring that is provided in the home Bible study setting and the classroom discussions that are provided at congregation meetings. (John 6:45) A new one needs to progress equally in his understanding of both the Scriptures and the organization. To that end, there is no substitute for attending the meetings. (Heb. 10:23-25) Start inviting the person to the congregation meetings right away. Some newly interested ones start attending meetings even before having a regular home Bible study. Of course, we want to set the proper example ourselves by being in regular attendance.—Luke 6:40; Phil. 3:17.

[11] Share enough information about the meetings and how they are conducted so that the student will feel at ease when attending his first meeting. Since some people are very uneasy when going to new places for the first time, it may be advantageous to accompany the student to the Kingdom Hall when he attends his first meeting. He will feel more at ease if you are with him as he meets members of the congregation. By all means, be a good host to your visitor, making him feel welcome and comfortable.—Matt. 7:12; Phil. 2:1-4.

[12] Encourage the student to attend a special assembly day, circuit assembly, or district convention at the first opportunity. Perhaps you can include him in your transportation arrangements.

[13] **Instill Heartfelt Appreciation:** *Organized to Accomplish Our Ministry,* page 92, explains: "If your own deep appreciation for Jehovah's organization is reflected in your conversations with interested people, it will be easier for them to grow in appreciation and will move them to make greater advancement in getting to know Jehovah." Always speak positively, never negatively, about your local congregation. (Ps. 84:10; 133: 1, 3b) In the prayers that you offer on the Bible study, mention the congregation and the student's need to associate regularly with it.—Eph. 1:15-17.

[14] We certainly want new ones to develop heartfelt appreciation for the delightful companionship and spiritual security that are found among God's people. (1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Pet. 2:17; 5:9) As Jehovah's Witnesses, let us do all we can to direct students of God's Word to the organization behind our name.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

Closed-book review on material covered in Theocratic Ministry School assignments for the weeks of January 6 to April 21, 1997. Use a separate sheet of paper to write down answers to as many of the questions as you can in the time allotted.

[Note: During the written review, only the Bible may be used to answer any question. References that follow the questions are for your personal research. Page and paragraph numbers may not appear on all references to *The Watchtower*.]

Answer each of the following statements True or False:

1. Years before the Watchtower Bible School of Gilead was established, the good news was brought to foreign fields by Witnesses who learned the truth abroad and returned to their homelands to preach. [*jv* p. 428 par. 2]
2. Gideon was able to defeat the Midianites because of his military background. [*it*-1 p. 933 pars. 1-2]
3. In fulfillment of Zechariah 9:2-4, Tyre was completely destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar. [*si* p. 169 par. 4]
4. Eve was correct when she stated that she had produced a son (Cain) "with the aid of Jehovah." (Gen. 4:1) [*it*-1 p. 772 par. 2]
5. Although C. T. Russell was well-known as a gifted public speaker, it was his sincere interest in people that made him an effective evangelizer. [*jv* p. 404 par. 2]
6. The black race did not descend from Ham's son Canaan, whom Noah cursed. [*it*-1 p. 1023 par. 5]
7. Among the "goats" mentioned at Matthew 25:31-46, who will suffer everlasting cutting-off, will be active members of Babylon the Great and their religious leaders. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*95 10/15 p. 26 pars. 13-15.]
8. As a result of severe persecution in Europe, the number of publishers there decreased dramatically during World War II. [*jv* p. 454 par. 2]
9. Forgiving others clears the way for our sins to be forgiven by God. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*94 9/15 p. 7.]
10. Gabriel is one of only two faithful angels the Bible mentions by name. [*it*-1 p. 876 par. 5]

Answer the following questions:

11. What striking method was used in London, England, in 1938 to advertise the convention talk "Face the Facts"? [*jv* p. 447 par. 2]
Wore placards
[illegible] [illegible] + walk
12. What two roles filled by Jesus Christ were described at Zechariah 6:12, 13? [*si* p. 172 par. 25] King & priest
13. The arrangement for congregations to share in making contributions to the Society Kingdom Hall Fund is an example of the application of what principle? [*jv* p. 344 pars. 3-4] 2 Cor.
By mean of Equaliz
14. In what ways do humans benefit from Jesus' sacrifice at this time? [*kl* pp. 68-9 pars. 17-19] Forgiveness of
hope -
15. Why should we not hesitate to explain to householders that our work is supported by voluntary donations? [*jv* p. 349 par. 4] some want to help
16. In what sense did "Elijah the prophet" make an appearance in the first century, in fulfillment of Malachi 4:5? [*si* p. 174 par. 15] prepared a people
for Jesus ministry

17. How did sin spread to all men? [*kl* p. 58 par. 13] Inherited thru Adam

18. Where in the book of Matthew do we find the sound counsel Jesus gave on settling serious difficulties? [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*95 7/15 p. 22.] Ch 18

19. What is the "denarius" mentioned in Jesus' parable recorded at Matthew 20:1-16? [Weekly Bible reading; see *gt* 97 par. 6.] money - a days wage

20. List two things that have been proved by God's permission of wickedness. [*kl* pp. 77-8 pars. 18-20] man can't rule self
need God to rule (Kingdom)

Provide the word(s) or phrase needed to complete each of the following statements:

21. The first three Gospels are often called synoptic, meaning " similar" [*si* p. 175 par. 3]

22. Greed caused Gehazi, Elisha's attendant, to try to benefit materially from his master's cure of Naamans leprosy. [*it*-1 p. 905 par. 2]

23. Refusing to heed a warning from the chiefs of the military forces, ~~[illegible]~~ Gedaliah was assassinated by Ishmael and his men. [*it*-1 p. 903 par. 12]

24. Jehovah used the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to rekindle His people's enthusiasm for temple reconstruction. [*it*-1 p. 1018 pars. 4-5]

25. The "spirit" that departs from humans at death is the life force that originates with God. (Ps. 146:4) [*kl* p. 81 pars. 5-6]

Select the correct answer in each of the following statements:

26. There is evidence that Matthew wrote his Gospel in (Hebrew; Aramaic; Greek) and later translated it into (Hebrew; Aramaic; Greek). [*si* p. 176 par. 6]

27. (Jezebel; Sarah; Hagar) figured in a symbolic drama in which she represents the nation of fleshly Israel, which was cast off from Jehovah's favor. [*it*-1 p. 1018 par. 2]

28. Many West Africans first became acquainted with the truth through the stimulating Bible discourses of (Edwin Skinner; W. R. Brown; Juan Muniz). [*jv* p. 433 pars. 2-5]

29. (Haman's; Hamath's; Hanun's) prideful attempt at genocide of the Jews was frustrated by Queen (Ruth; Esther; Deborah). [*it*-1 p. 1024 par. 2]

30. Jesus became the Messiah at his (birth; baptism; resurrection), which took place in the year (2 B.C.E.; 29 C.E.; ~~33 C.E.~~). [*kl* p. 65 par. 12]

Match the following scriptures to the statements listed below:

1 Sam. 1:12-16; Matt. 4:8-10; Matt. 16:19; Jas. 1:13; 1 John 5:19

31. God is not the cause of the numerous hardships that plague mankind. [*kl* p. 71 par. 3] James 1:13

32. Jesus' true followers refuse to become involved in the political affairs of this world. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*96 5/1 p. 12 par. 9.] Matt 4:8-10

33. Knowledge concerning the Kingdom of God would open up the way to heaven for Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*91 3/15 p. 5.] matt 16:19

34. If on occasion we are misjudged by someone, a humble attitude and a respectful reply will usually achieve the greatest amount of good. [*it*-1 p. 1031 par. 5] 1 Sam 1:12-16

35. Christians have good reason to keep separate from the world. [*kl* p. 60 par. 18] 1 John 5:19

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **April and May:** Individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* on Saturdays and the brochure *What Does God Require of Us?* at other times during the week. **June:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. Concentrate on starting home Bible studies. **July and August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures: *Does God Really Care About Us?, Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!, Should You Believe in the Trinity?, The Government That Will Bring Paradise, What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?,* and *When Someone You Love Dies*.

■ Those associated with a congregation should send all new and renewal subscriptions for *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*, including their personal subscriptions, through the congregation.

■ The Society does not fill individual publishers' requests for literature. The presiding overseer should arrange for an announcement to be made *each month* before the congregation monthly request for literature is sent to the Society so that all interested in obtaining personal literature items may advise the brother handling literature. Please keep in mind which publications are special-request items.

■ Beginning in April, district convention badge cards for 1997 in Chinese, English, French, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, and Vietnamese will automatically be included with literature shipments. It will not be necessary to request these. If additional badge cards are needed by the congregations, these should be requested on a Literature Request Form (S-14). It is necessary to request plastic badge card holders for any in the congregation who desire them.

■ An English translation of the brochure *Lasting Peace and Happiness —How to Find Them* has been produced in addition to the Chinese and Simplified Chinese editions. Since this brochure is designed for use only in studying with Chinese people, it will not be widely distributed in the English-language field.

■ A packet of legal materials is available to assist publishers who are involved in lawsuits over child custody and visitation matters where our religion is under attack. The packet should be requested by the *body of elders only* in such a case if it is evident that the publisher's religious beliefs will be at issue. Helpful information can be found for those facing secular issues on child custody or visitation in *Awake!* of October 22, 1988, pages 2-14, and the chart found in *Awake!* of April 22, 1991, page 9.

■ New Publications Available:

Life in a Peaceful New World (Tract No. 15)	—Hiligaynon, Sinhalese
The Government That Will Bring Paradise	—Slovenian
What Does God Require of Us?	—Welsh

■ New Videocassettes Available:

Purple Triangles	—Italian, Portuguese
To the Ends of the Earth	—Portuguese
United by Divine Teaching	—Polish

■ New Compact Discs Available:
Kingdom Melodies Volume 4 (*cdm*-4)

JANUARY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**168**	**124.4**	**89.1**	**52.7**	**4.5**
Pios.	**72,629**	**76.2**	**44.5**	**24.5**	**2.0**
Aux. Pios.	**17,379**	**57.3**	**35.5**	**15.7**	**1.2**
Pubs.	**847,659**	**8.8**	**6.5**	**3.4**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**937,835**		Baptized: **2,803**		

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.*

April 7:	**Chapters 85-86**
April 14:	**Chapters 87-88**
April 21:	**Chapters 89-91**
April 28:	**Chapters 92-94**

QUESTION BOX

■ What publications should be put in the Theocratic Ministry School library?

An abundance of spiritual publications have been provided for the benefit of God's people. Since many publishers do not possess all of these personally, the Theocratic Ministry School library at the Kingdom Hall provides means for research in publications that might not otherwise be available. Thus, it should be well equipped with a variety of Bible translations, the current publications of the Society, copies of *Our Kingdom Ministry*, bound volumes of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*, and the *Watch Tower Publications Indexes*. Additionally, a good modern dictionary should be added. If available, encyclopedias, atlases, or reference books on grammar and history may be useful. However, our primary focus should be on the publications provided by "the faithful and discreet slave." —Matt. 24:45.

In some cases it is reported that books of a questionable nature have been put in the Theocratic Ministry School library. It would not be appropriate to include fictional material, Bible commentaries that highlight higher criticism, or books on philosophy or spiritism. The Theocratic Ministry School library should include only material that will enable those using it to make continued spiritual advancement.—1 Tim. 4:15.

The school overseer is responsible for the library, although another brother can be assigned to help him in caring for it. He should see that the library is kept current, with new publications being added as soon as they become available. Each book should be clearly marked on the inside cover with the name of the congregation to which it belongs. Annually, the books should be checked to see if any need repair or replacement.

Everyone can cooperate in caring for the library. Care should be exercised in handling and using the books. Children should not be allowed to play with them, nor should anyone mark them. A neat sign may be displayed as a reminder that the books are not to be taken from the Kingdom Hall.

With new congregations constantly being formed, it is likely that many libraries are limited in size. Some publishers who own our older publications might consider donating them to the congregation. The elders may want to order the Society's reprints of *Watchtower* bound volumes. In these ways, the Theocratic Ministry School library will prove very useful in helping all to uncover the hidden treasures of God's Word, which give knowledge, wisdom, and understanding.—Prov. 2:4-6.

Teach Others What God Requires

[1] Many people can still be found who have been spiritually deprived of "hearing the words of Jehovah." (Amos 8:11) While some believe that God exists, they are unaware of his purpose and requirements. Thus, there is a need for us to teach them lifesaving Kingdom truth. By being properly equipped and prepared to witness at every opportunity, we can reach those who want to learn what Jehovah requires.

[2] During April and May, we will have very timely issues of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* to distribute. Additionally, for the first time, we will feature the brochure *What Does God Require of Us?* Its eye-catching illustrations and thought-provoking questions give this brochure wide appeal. The following suggestions are offered to help us use our excellent publications to good advantage.

[3] **Searching Out People:** In areas where many people are not at home when we call from house to house, it is proving beneficial to search out and talk to people wherever they are found. The September 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert encouraged us to preach the good news everywhere—on the street, on public transportation, and in parks, parking lots, and business places. It also made us conscious of the need to create opportunities to preach informally. As an example of this, a pioneer sister went to the zoo and took with her a supply of the August 8, 1996, *Awake!* with the series "Endangered Species—Why Be Concerned?" Within an hour, she placed 40 copies with some very appreciative animal lovers! What success have you enjoyed thus far preaching the good news everywhere? *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* as well as the *Require* brochure are especially suited for all kinds of witnessing because they feature information that touches people's lives and stimulates thinking ability.

[4] **Starting Conversations:** The back page of the October 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry* gives details on how to prepare your own presentation for the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. The same suggestions will work well when preparing your presentation for the *Require* brochure. What we say can be as brief as a few sentences or long enough to include a Scriptural thought. It is important to select the opening words carefully, since they may determine whether the person you approach will continue to listen. Some have been successful with this opening comment: "I read an article that was encouraging to me, and I want to share it with you." Or an interesting question can be raised to draw the other party into a conversation.

[5] ***If appropriate in your area, you might try asking questions like the following in your presentations this month:***

■ "Today we see so much graffiti, litter, and pollution. What will it take to clean up the earth and make it a better place in which to live?" Allow for a response, and then explain that you have information that assures us of how and when the earth will become a global garden. Share a specific comment, a brief scripture, and a colorful illustration from a current magazine, and then offer it to the individual for him to read. Mention that many who enjoy reading our publications offer a donation, which we gladly put toward our worldwide work. Before you end the conversation, try to arrange to continue it at another time.

■ "Do you think that God meant for us to live surrounded by troubles such as those we are faced with today?" After the person answers, you could say: "Likely you are familiar with the prayer Jesus taught his followers to pray, asking for God's Kingdom to come. Have you given thought to just what the Kingdom of God really is?" Turn to lesson 6 in the *Require* brochure, and read the questions that are posed at the beginning of the lesson. Then, as you read paragraph 1, point out the answer to the first question. Explain that the rest of the questions are answered just as concisely. Offer the brochure, mention the arrangement for donations, and offer to meet again to share more information about the Kingdom.

■ "Many thinking people are beginning to view the religions of the world as the cause of man's problems rather than being the solution. What do *you* think about that?" After listening to the person's viewpoint, show something from one of the current magazines that may capture his interest about false religion's failure or its approaching downfall. Ask if he would like to read it. Exchange names, and offer to make contact again so that you can explain how it is that true religion has not failed mankind. Wherever appropriate, explain how the interested person may make a small donation.

■ "With so many problems in family life today, have you ever wondered what is the secret for obtaining family happiness?" Wait for a response, and explain that in the Bible, God reveals the real secret of family happiness. Perhaps you could read Isaiah 48:17. Then turn to lesson 8 in the *Require* brochure, and point to some of the cited Bible verses that provide reliable guidance for each member of the family. Read the list of questions at the beginning of the lesson. Ask if the person would like to read the answers. If so, give him the brochure and explain that although there is no charge for it, we do accept modest donations to support our worldwide work. Offer to return another time to share more of the practical guidance that the Bible contains for happy family life. Reason BK - Willing To Listen

[6] The insert in the March 1997 *Our Kingdom Ministry* encouraged us to muster up boldness to make return visits. It recommended using the *Require* brochure to start Bible studies, if not on the initial call, then on the return visit. Mankind's greatest need is to learn what God requires and then to do it. (Col. 1:9, 10) We will greatly benefit others during April and May if we can begin to teach them what we know about Jehovah's requirements for life.—1 Cor. 9:23.

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Be a good listener! OLIVER DAN

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

May 1997 For United States of America Vol. 40, No. 5

Follow Jesus Continually

1 On one occasion Jesus said: "If anyone wants to come after me, let him disown himself and pick up his torture stake and continually follow me." (Matt. 16:24) We certainly want to respond positively to Jesus' words. Let us examine what is involved with each phrase of his invitation.

2 **"Let Him Disown Himself":** When we dedicate our lives to Jehovah, we disown ourselves. The basic meaning of the Greek word translated "disown" is "to say no." That means we voluntarily surrender our own ambitions, desires, comforts, and selfish pleasures—being determined to please Jehovah throughout all eternity.—Rom. 14:8; 15:3.

3 **"Pick Up His Torture Stake":** The Christian's life is a life of carrying the torture stake of sacrificial service to Jehovah. One way the spirit of self-sacrifice may be reflected is by exerting oneself in the ministry. So far this year, many publishers have been enjoying the auxiliary pioneer work. Perhaps you are among them and can affirm that the blessings you derive more than compensate for the sacrifices you make. Those who are unable to serve as auxiliary pioneers have frequently arranged to spend more time in the preaching work as congregation publishers. To that end, some congregations are scheduling their meetings for field service a few minutes earlier than they once did. With the arrival of spring, many publishers appreciate having this longer period for field service. Some have had excellent results too when they decided to call on 'just one more house' or to work 'only a few minutes longer.'

4 Another way the spirit of self-sacrifice is displayed is by the setting of personal goals. With careful planning and by adjusting their schedule, some have become regular pioneers. Others have been able to arrange their affairs so as to make themselves available for Bethel or missionary service. Some have moved to an area where there is a greater need for Kingdom publishers.

5 **"Continually Follow Me":** Although Jesus' disciples experienced many trials, they were encouraged by his zeal and endurance in the ministry. (John 4:34) They felt renewed in their spirit by his presence and his message. That is why those who followed him radiated genuine joy. (Matt. 11:29) Let us likewise encourage one another to endure in the all-important work of Kingdom preaching and disciple making.

6 May we all react positively to Jesus' invitation to follow him continually by cultivating the spirit of self-sacrifice. As we do, we will have great joy now and can look forward to even greater blessings in the future.

Conducting Progressive Home Bible Studies

1 What is it that a nurse in Tanzania, a youngster in Argentina, and a mother in Latvia have in common? The *1997 Yearbook* (pp. 8, 46, and 56) reports that all three made rapid progress in their home Bible studies, thanks to their willingness to have more than one session each week in the *Knowledge* book. It has been recommended that whenever possible, publishers should endeavor to discuss one chapter of the book during each study session. However, some find that it is a challenge to do so. Although much will depend on the circumstances and the aptitude of each student, experienced teachers have found success by implementing the following suggestions.

2 As was discussed in the June 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, it is necessary to train your students to prepare for the study. At the very start, it would be good to explain and demonstrate how this is done. Show them your personal study copy of the *Knowledge* book. Prepare the first lesson together. Help the students to find the key words or phrases that directly answer the printed question and then underline or highlight them. Some publishers have even given their students a highlighting marker. Encourage them to look up all the scriptures as they prepare for the study. In the process, you will also be training them to prepare for attending the Congregation Book Study and the *Watchtower* Study.—Luke 6:40.

3 A good teacher will draw out the student and not talk too much himself. He avoids becoming sidetracked on minor points. Rarely would he bring in outside material. Instead, he highlights the main points of the lesson. Some have provided students with additional literature to help them find answers to questions. Further, interested ones will receive additional detailed information through attending congregation meetings.

4 It may not be necessary to look up all the cited scriptures in the lesson. Some main points might be explained from the quoted texts in the paragraph. During the review, highlight the key scriptures that were discussed and encourage the student to remember these.

5 **How Long Should Each Session Last?:** The study need not be limited to one hour. Some householders have time available and may desire to study longer. Or the student may wish to study more than once a week. This would be beneficial for those who can do so.

6 As Isaiah 60:8 portrays, today hundreds of thousands of new praisers of Jehovah "come flying just like a cloud, and like doves to their birdhouse holes" into the congregations of his people. Let all of us do our part in working closely with Jehovah as he speeds up the ingathering of sheeplike ones.—Isa. 60:22.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR MAY

NOTE: *Our Kingdom Ministry* will schedule a Service Meeting for each week during the summer months. Congregations may make adjustments as needed to allow for attending the "Faith in God's Word" District Convention and then for a 30-minute review of the program highlights at the Service Meeting the following week. The day-by-day review of the district convention program should be assigned in advance to two or three qualified brothers who will be able to focus on outstanding points. This well-prepared review will help the congregation remember key points for personal application and for use in the field. Comments from the audience and experiences related should be brief and to the point.

Week Starting May 5

Song 130

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

12 min: "Follow Jesus Continually." Questions and answers. Include experiences from the June 1, 1993, *Watchtower,* page 12.

23 min: "Show Genuine Concern for All the Interest Found." Audience discussion. Stress the need to follow up all interest. Suggest some tactful ways to request the home address of those met in public places so that we can witness to them further. Have capable publishers demonstrate two of the presentations suggested in paragraphs 6-9. Review the box, "How to Be Successful in Making Return Visits," on page 3 in the March 1997 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert. Encourage all to schedule some time each week to make return visits.

Song 151 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 12

Song 133

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

12 min: Question Box. Talk by an elder.

23 min: "1997 'Faith in God's Word' District Convention." (Paragraphs 1-15) Questions and answers. Read paragraphs 8, 10, and 13. Stress the Scriptural importance of carefully maintaining our modest Christian appearance and conduct and of properly supervising our children.

Song 162 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 19

Song 139

7 min: Local announcements. Announce special field service arrangements for May 26.

20 min: "Conducting Progressive Home Bible Studies." Capable brother discusses article with one or two publishers who do well in conducting studies. Using portions of the *Knowledge* book as examples, they relate teaching techniques that help them to keep the study moving at a steady pace and that allow them to discern what the student is actually learning.—See June 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, paragraphs 5, 8, 12, and 21.

Ja

18 min: "1997 'Faith in God's Word' District Convention." (Paragraphs 16-22) Questions and answers. Read paragraph 16 and the cited scriptures. Emphasize need for orderliness and consideration for others, especially when it comes to seating. Conclude with a brief talk reviewing "District Convention Reminders."

Song 165 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 26

Song 148

D Wolf

15 min: Local announcements. Review literature offer for June. Using the *Knowledge* book, explain how the thoughts in paragraphs 17-19 on pages 10-11 could be used to prepare a brief presentation. Give a reminder about mentioning the donation arrangement. Encourage all to concentrate on endeavoring to start studies. Stress the need to help interested ones progress quickly.—See the January 15, 1996, *Watchtower,* pages 13-14.

L Fatheree

12 min: "Why Do We Keep Going Back?" Questions and answers. Include points from the box on page 570 in the *Proclaimers* book.

Taylor

18 min: Local needs. Talk by an elder or a discussion by two elders, addressing a spiritual need of the congregation. Give Scriptural exhortation and practical suggestions for improvement.

Song 174 and concluding prayer.

QUESTION BOX

■ What cautions are needed when we are in association with someone of the opposite sex in connection with our ministry?

We have reason to expect that our brothers and sisters intend to adhere to the highest moral standard in their personal conduct. Nevertheless, we live in an unclean and permissive world that has few moral limitations. While we may have the best of intentions, we must be on guard constantly to avoid causing reproach or getting involved in something improper. This includes being careful while engaged in the ministry.

In field service we often encounter people of the opposite sex who manifest what appears to be a sincere interest in the truth. If we are alone when we make the call and there is no one else at home, usually it would be best to give a witness at the door rather than go inside. If there is interest, arrangements can be made to return when we will be accompanied by another publisher or when others in the household will be present also. If this is not possible, it would be wise to turn the call over to a publisher of the same sex as the householder. This also applies to conducting Bible studies with someone of the opposite sex.—Matt. 10:16.

We need to be careful when choosing someone to work with in the ministry. Although publishers of the opposite sex may work together at times, this is best done when with a group. Ordinarily, even while in the ministry, it is not wise for us to be spending time alone with someone of the opposite sex who is not our marriage mate. Hence, the brother in charge of the service group should use good judgment when assigning publishers, including teenagers, to work together.

By always using good judgment, we will avoid "giving any cause for stumbling" to either ourselves or others.—2 Cor. 6:3.

1997 "Faith in God's Word" District Convention

[1] The apostle Paul reminded Timothy that "all Scripture is inspired of God." (2 Tim. 3:16) Since God's Word is inspired, we have every reason to exercise faith in it. The theme of this year's district convention is "Faith in God's Word." The program will strengthen our faith in the Bible, whether we have known the truth for many years or have just recently come into contact with Jehovah's organization. All of us should arrange to be in attendance for the entire program. How upbuilding it will be if newly interested persons, particularly those with whom we study the Bible, attend with us!

[2] **Three-Day Convention:** This year a three-day district convention program has been arranged for our benefit. The February 15, 1997, *Watchtower* lists 193 conventions to be held in the contiguous United States. By now you have been informed of the convention to which your congregation is assigned, and you should have made definite plans to attend all three days of the program. Have you approached your employer to get the needed time off? If you have school-age children and your convention falls during the school term, have you kindly informed their teachers that your children will be absent on Friday for this important part of their religious training? —Deut. 31:12.

[3] In addition to English, there will be conventions in American Sign Language, Chinese, French, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

[4] The program will begin each day at 9:30 a.m. Doors will open at 8:00 a.m. The only ones permitted to enter before that time will be those with work assignments, but they will not be allowed to save seats until the building opens for everyone. —Phil. 2:4.

[5] **Do Well by Paying Attention:** The apostle Peter reminded first-century Christians that they would do well to pay attention to the prophetic word as to a lamp shining in a dark place. (2 Pet. 1:19) The same is true of us. Living in this old world that is under Satan's control is like being in a dark place. We are grateful to have been called out of spiritual darkness. (Col. 1:13; 1 Pet. 2:9; 1 John 5:19) To remain in the light, we need to keep our faith strong by paying attention to the inspired Word of Jehovah. Our district convention this summer will encourage us to do just that.

[6] Effort may be required on our part if we are to concentrate on the program, but we certainly will be blessed for doing so. We should endeavor to come to the convention site well rested so that we will be alert during the sessions. Allow ample time to get to the convention site each day in order to be in your seat before the program begins. Then join in the opening song and prayer at the start of each day's program. Adults should set the example, and parents should train their children. —Eph. 6:4.

[7] If we look over the titles of the parts before the day's program begins, we can try to anticipate what points might be brought out during that session. This will enhance our interest in the material when it is presented. We may look for points that will help us express to others why we believe in God and in his sure promise to reward those earnestly seeking him. (Heb. 11:1, 6) It has been recommended that we take brief notes to help us remember the main points of the program. If we take too many notes, we may miss some key points because we are too busy writing.

[8] Last year many adults and youths were again observed walking aimlessly through the corridors, milling around outside, and visiting with others while the program was in progress, rather than listening to what "the faithful and discreet slave" had provided for our benefit. Jesus promised to give us spiritual food at the proper time. (Matt. 24:45-47) Therefore, we ought to be present to benefit from that food and not show a lack of appreciation. (2 Cor. 6:1) It also seems that when some children get restless, they often ask to use the rest room as an excuse to get up and walk around. Proper training at home will usually make frequent trips to the rest room unnecessary. At times, older youths sit together in remote places, talking, whispering, and passing notes to each other. Our young people, who face many pressures today, need to concentrate on the material being presented, not to be doing other things during the program. Youthful desires that

do not harmonize with Bible principles should be avoided. (Compare 2 Timothy 2:22.) The attentiveness of all, adults and youths, will honor Jehovah and make him rejoice.

9 If it becomes necessary for one of the attendants to give anyone counsel in these matters, it should be accepted as a loving provision from Jehovah. (Gal. 6:1) All need to remember that the reason we put forth effort to attend the convention is so that we may 'listen and learn.' (Deut. 31:12) Also, "a wise person will listen and take in more instruction." (Prov. 1:5) In the time remaining before you attend the convention, discuss as a family the need to sit together in the audience, remain seated during the program, and be keenly attentive, in order to gain the full benefit of the program.

10 **Adornment That Pleases Jehovah:** Jehovah's people are on display for all the world to see. (1 Cor. 4:9) We are generally noted for our fine standard of dress and grooming. Applying the Scriptural principles found at 1 Timothy 2:9, 10 and at 1 Peter 3:3, 4 has resulted in great changes in the appearance of many compared with how they looked when they began associating with the Christian congregation. This is in sharp contrast to the steadily deteriorating standards of dress and grooming that we see in the world. We want to be on guard that we do not become like the world in our appearance—wearing outlandish clothing, promoting worldly fads in hairstyles, or being immodestly dressed. Our exemplary dress and grooming should help new ones who attend the convention to see how Christians ought to adorn themselves.

11 While the general impression left as a result of last year's conventions was very favorable, worldly dress and grooming continue to be a problem with some of the brothers and sisters, especially during leisure time. While making our plans to attend the convention, we should analyze ourselves as to our dress and grooming. Parents, wisely monitor what your young children and teenagers are going to wear. Make sure we are not letting worldly styles and fads have a bad effect on our Christian appearance.

12 **Maintain Fine Conduct:** Fine conduct is a mark of true Christians. (1 Pet. 2:12) Our behavior wherever we may be—at the convention, at restaurants, and in hotels, as well as when traveling—can give a fine witness and help others to see what faith in God and in his Word can do for people. This may move some to come to know Jehovah. (Compare 1 Peter 3:1, 2.) We have the privilege of glorifying God by our conduct. The management of one hotel in Alabama said that our delegates are "the nicest and best behaved group they host." They added: "It will be a privilege to have you back in the future." A convention and visitors bureau in the northwestern United States wrote: "Each year, the Watchtower Society conference is eagerly awaited by our entire community. Your members are a true delight; conducting themselves with the utmost courtesy and respect. Our businesses recognize this and treasure the return of their 'family' of guests each year." Reports like these are a pleasure to read, are they not? There is a need to remain vigilant, however, so that we may preserve the good reputation of Jehovah's people.

13 Many reminders have been given about controlling our children, not letting them run around hotels unattended, disturbing other guests. Each year, the Society receives reports that some of our children are unsupervised in and around the swimming pool or are seen running in hallways and public areas of hotels. One manager who stayed overnight at his hotel was awakened twice after 11:00 p.m. by groups of our children knocking on each room door looking for other Witnesses. Although the conventions provide us the opportunity to visit and associate with our brotherhood, parents must still keep in mind their obligation to provide supervision for their children at all times. This is a responsibility that Jehovah places on every parent. (Prov. 1:8; Eph. 6:4) The unsupervised actions of children can undermine the good reputation that other Witnesses of Jehovah have worked hard to build.—Prov. 29:15.

14 If a hotel provides a complimentary breakfast during your stay, you should not see this as an opportunity to stock up for the noon meal. Hotels have reported that some of our brothers and sisters have come down with plastic bags and filled them with fruit, Danish pastries, and bagels to be consumed later, leaving little for the other guests. Such hotel amenities are provided as a courtesy for guests while at the hotel and must not be abused. To take more than what you will eat during your breakfast meal would really demonstrate a greedy spirit, and it is also dishonest. If an improper attitude on the part of fellow Witnesses is observed, it would be a kindness to remind them of how they should be acting. Also remember, no cooking is to be done in hotel rooms unless they are equipped with a kitchen for that purpose. If

you bring an ice chest to your room, please be sure it does not leak or sweat and damage the carpet, furniture, or walls of the room.

[15] Keep in mind that tipping is appropriate when you receive a personal service, especially since many who serve the public, such as waiters, waitresses, maids, and bellmen, are dependent to a large extent on tips to make a living. As Jehovah's Witnesses, we want to show good manners in this regard too.—See *Awake!* of June 22, 1986, pages 24-7.

[16] **Covering Convention Expenses:** All of us will have expenses in connection with attending the conventions. There is another expense that we do well to consider. Facilities that are used for conventions are expensive. There are also other expenses that must be cared for. Our generous voluntary contributions at the conventions are greatly appreciated.—Acts 20:35; 2 Cor. 9:7, 11, 13.

[17] **Seating:** The directions that have been given for a number of years will continue to apply, namely, SEATS MAY BE SAVED ONLY FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS AND ANY WHO MAY BE TRAVELING WITH YOU IN YOUR CAR. It has been good to see that more are complying with these directions in recent years, and this has heightened the loving atmosphere displayed at the conventions. At most sites some seats are more easily accessible than others. Please show consideration, and leave the more convenient seats for those whose circumstances require them.

[18] **Cameras, Camcorders, and Audiocassette Recorders:** Cameras and recording equipment may be used at conventions. However, our use of them must not be distracting to others in attendance. We should not walk around during the sessions taking pictures, as that would disturb others who are trying to concentrate on the program. No recording devices of any sort are to be connected to the electrical or sound systems, nor should this equipment block aisles, walkways, or the view of others.

[19] **First Aid:** The First Aid Department is for emergencies only. It is not able to care for the chronically ill. That is why you should consider the health needs of yourself and your family in advance. Please bring your own aspirin, digestive aids, bandages, safety pins, and similar items, as such things will not be available at the convention. Any known to be at risk of seizures, insulin shock, heart problems, and so forth, should anticipate their needs to the extent possible. They should have the necessary medication, and a member of the family or the congregation who understands their situation should be present with them at all times to provide any needed assistance. Problems have arisen at conventions when individuals with chronic health problems were left alone and became ill. The convention administration has had to contact emergency medical services to take them to a hospital. If some with special health needs do not have family members who can assist them, their congregation elders will need to be apprised of the situation and make necessary arrangements to help. No provision will be made at the conventions for special rooms to accommodate those who have allergies.

[20] **Food at the Convention:** Having no food service at conventions has resulted in many more being free during all the sessions to concentrate on the spiritual food. A number of expressions of appreciation for this simplification have been received since the arrangement was instituted. All should plan to bring their own practical, nourishing food items for the noon break, such as those suggested in the May 1995 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, paragraph 26. No glass containers and no alcoholic beverages are to be brought into the convention facility. Food coolers must be small enough to fit *under* your seat. Some in the audience have been observed eating and drinking during the program. Doing this is disrespectful. Where there is a food court within the convention facility or there are vendors on the outside, some brothers have been observed patronizing these during the program. Such a practice is inappropriate.

[21] We truly appreciate our spiritual feast and the relaxed, peaceful atmosphere of fellowship during our short noon breaks. In keeping with the purpose of this arrangement, instead of leaving the facility at the noon break to purchase food, please bring something with you. Thus, you will have more time to enjoy the fellowship of your brothers and sisters.

[22] How glad we are that the "Faith in God's Word" District Conventions will be starting soon! All of us want to be sure that our preparations have been made to attend the whole program, so that we can enjoy to the full the fine spiritual banquet Jehovah has prepared for us through his organization. In that way we will become "completely equipped for every good work" in the days ahead.—2 Tim. 3:17.

How Convention Help?

District Convention Reminders

Baptism: Baptismal candidates should be seated in the designated section before the program begins on Saturday morning. A *modest* bathing suit and a towel should be brought by each one who plans to be baptized. In the past some have worn attire that was not appropriate and that detracted from the occasion. Elders reviewing with baptismal candidates the questions in the *Our Ministry* book should make sure that each one understands these points. After the baptism talk and prayer by the speaker, the session chairman will call for a song. After the last stanza, the attendants will direct the candidates to the immersion site. Baptism in symbol of one's dedication is an intimate and personal matter between the individual and Jehovah. Thus, it is inappropriate for candidates to embrace each other or to hold hands while being baptized.

Badge Cards: Please wear the 1997 badge card at all times while in the convention city and while traveling to and from it. This often creates opportunities for us to give a fine witness. Badge cards and holders should be obtained through your congregation, as they will *not* be available at the convention. Do not wait until a few days before the convention to ask for cards for you and your family. Remember to carry your current Advance Medical Directive/Release card.

Rooming: We are asking for the cooperation of everyone in using ONLY the listing of accommodations provided by the convention. If we bypass the Society's arrangement and secure accommodations at a hotel not on the approved list or pay more than the agreed-upon rate at one of the listed hotels, we undermine much of the hard work of our brothers who negotiate with the hotels for better rates. Have in mind that the convention room rates also apply on Thursday and Sunday nights. IF YOU EXPERIENCE A PROBLEM WITH A HOTEL, please do not hesitate to notify the Rooming Department *while you are still at the convention* so that they can assist you in resolving the matter right away. Please realize that it may not be possible for everyone to get a nonsmoking room at a hotel, even if the request was made when the reservation was booked. The same applies to your preference for king, queen, or double beds. Congregation secretaries should be sure that Special Needs Room Request forms are promptly forwarded to the appropriate convention address. If you must cancel an accommodation made through the special needs arrangement, you should immediately notify both the landlord or hotel and the convention Rooming Department so that the room can be reassigned.

Baby Strollers and Lawn Chairs: In most locations, baby strollers cannot be used in places of public assembly. Fire regulations prohibit placing them in corridors and aisles or between rows of seats. Since large crowds may cause congested conditions, strollers are potentially dangerous both to the baby and to any who could stumble over them. So please do not bring strollers to the convention site. Infant or child car seats are permissible, since these can be secured in seats next to the parents. Please do not bring lawn chairs. They are dangerous and are not allowed at large public facilities. Your cooperation is important and appreciated.

Volunteer Service: Can you set aside some time at the convention to assist in one of the departments? Serving our brothers, if only for a few hours, will be very helpful and brings much personal satisfaction. If you can assist, please report to the Volunteer Service Department at the convention. Children under 16 years of age can also make a fine contribution by working under the direction of a parent or other responsible adult.

Words of Caution: Keep alert to potential problems so as to avoid unnecessary difficulty. Often thieves and other unscrupulous individuals prey on people who are away from their home environment. Be sure your vehicle is locked *at all times,* and never leave anything visible to tempt someone to break in. Thieves and pickpockets focus their attention on large gatherings. It would not be wise to leave any valuables at your seat. You cannot be sure that everyone around you is a Christian. Why offer any temptation? Reports have been received of attempts made by some outsiders to lure children away. **KEEP YOUR CHILDREN IN SIGHT AT ALL TIMES.**

Television and video services available in many hotels often feature lewd, pornographic programs. Be alert to this snare, and do not permit children to have unsupervised access to the television in the room. Parents may wish to prevent their children from activating "pay TV" in their hotel room by requesting the hotel to lock out this feature during their stay.

Please do not phone or write the management of the convention auditorium, seeking information about any convention matters. If the information is not available from the elders, you may write to the address of a specific convention, as found on the back of the Special Needs Room Request forms, one of which is posted on the congregation's information board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **May:** Individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* and the brochure *What Does God Require of Us?* **June:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. Concentrate on starting home Bible studies. **July and August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures: *Does God Really Care About Us?*, *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *Should You Believe in the Trinity?*, *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*, *What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?*, and *When Someone You Love Dies*.
- New Publications Available:

"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial" —Hungarian
Elementary Bible Teachings —Persian
Hellfire—Is It Part of Divine Justice? (Tract No. 74) —Persian
How to Start and Continue Bible Discussions —Persian
Jehovah's Witnesses—What Do They Believe? (For Jews) (Tract No. 18) —Italian
Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life —Hebrew, Persian
Lasting Peace and Happiness—How Can You Find Them? —Chinese (Simplified)
Life in a Peaceful New World (Tract No. 15) —Indonesian
My Book of Bible Stories (Small size) —Amharic
Should You Believe in the Trinity? —Albanian
Sing Praises to Jehovah (29 songs) —Samoan
Sing Praises to Jehovah (100 songs) —Amharic
Sing Praises to Jehovah—Large Print (Lyrics only) —Romanian
Spirits of the Dead—Can They Help You or Harm You? Do They Really Exist? —Persian
What Does God Require of Us? —Turkish
What Do Jehovah's Witnesses Believe? (Tract No. 14) —Sinhalese
What Hope for Dead Loved Ones? (Tract No. 16) —Sinhalese
Who Are Jehovah's Witnesses? (Tract No. 73) —Croatian
You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth (Small size) —Tigrinya

- New Audiocassettes Available:

A Revelation to John (single cassette) —Danish
Awake! on cassette —Danish
Deuteronomy (set of two cassettes) —Danish
Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life (five cassettes in an album) —Italian
Leviticus (set of two cassettes) —Danish
Numbers (set of three cassettes) —Danish
Preserving Life in Time of Famine (Drama, single cassette) —Italian
The First of Peter through *The Letter of Jude* (single cassette) —Danish
The Secret of Family Happiness (four cassettes in an album) —English
To the Hebrews, The Letter of James (single cassette) —Danish
What Does God Require of Us? (single cassette) —German, Spanish

- New Videocassettes Available:

Jehovah's Witnesses Stand Firm Against Nazi Assault —German
Jehovah's Witnesses—The Organization Behind the Name —Serbian
Purple Triangles —French, Greek, Spanish

FEBRUARY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**159**	**122.5**	**91.6**	**53.1**	**4.5**
Pios.	**70,791**	**74.9**	**45.8**	**23.7**	**2.0**
Aux. Pios.	**16,329**	**57.8**	**37.0**	**15.7**	**1.2**
Pubs.	**837,248**	**9.1**	**7.0**	**3.4**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**924,527**	·	Baptized: **2,193**		

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.*

May 5:	**Chapters 95-96**
May 12:	**Chapters 97-98**
May 19:	**Chapters 99-100**
May 26:	**Chapters 101-102**

Why Do We Keep Going Back?

[1] Have you ever asked yourself that question, perhaps as you were preparing for a day in service? In some areas where our territory is worked repeatedly, householders may recognize who we are and quickly turn us away. Only a few may respond in a favorable way. Yet, there are many powerful reasons why we keep going back.

[2] First of all, we are commanded to continue preaching the Kingdom message until the end comes. (Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20) The prophet Isaiah wondered how long he would have to continue his preaching work. The answer he received is recorded at Isaiah 6:11. There is no question about it—he was told to keep going back to the people with God's message. Likewise today, though they may turn us away, Jehovah expects us to continue calling on the people living in our territory. (Ezek. 3:10, 11) This is a sacred responsibility that has been entrusted to us.—1 Cor. 9:17.

[3] Another reason for us to keep going back is that this gives us an opportunity to show the depth of our devotion to Jehovah. (1 John 5:3) Besides, when we contemplate what the near future holds for mankind, how can we hold ourselves back from lovingly trying to warn our neighbors? (2 Tim. 4:2; Jas. 2:8) Our being faithful in carrying out our assignment provides repeated opportunities for them to respond to God's message of salvation, so that they will not be able to say they were not warned.—Ezek. 5:13.

[4] Additionally, we never know when some people will have a change of heart. It can be prompted by a change in their personal circumstances, a tragedy in their family, or world conditions that cause them to think seriously about their future. Then again, something we say at their door may trigger a favorable response. (Eccl. 9:11; 1 Cor. 7:31) Also, people move. We may find new residents in our territory who will respond to the good news—perhaps young adults who are now living on their own and are thinking seriously about their purpose in life.

[5] Will we keep going back? Yes! The Scriptures give us ample motivation to return to the people again and again. In the end, when the preaching work is finished, Jehovah will bless us for our continued effort in the ministry, and he will bless those who have responded appreciatively to the Kingdom good news.—1 Tim. 4:16.

Show Genuine Concern for All the Interest Found

[1] The worldwide Kingdom proclamation will soon come to a close, after which all those "who do not know God" will suffer destruction. (2 Thess. 1:7-9) Thus, genuine concern for the lives of others is moving Jehovah's people to reach as many as possible with the Kingdom message.—Zeph. 2:3.

[2] Every month, millions of hours are spent in searching out those who want to hear "good news of something better." (Isa. 52:7) In response to the current literature offer, many have accepted copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* or the brochure *What Does God Require of Us?* Genuine concern for these people should prompt us to follow through on all the interest found.—Prov. 3:27.

[3] **Keep Accurate Records:** More will be accomplished if you keep a complete and accurate record of the interest and placements. Information such as the householder's name and address, day and time you called, literature placed, and the subject discussed will help you to be more effective when returning. Also, if you write down some comments made by the householder in your initial conversation, you may be able to refer to them effectively as you resume the discussion on the return call.

[4] **Be Prompt in Making Return Visits:** How many of those who accepted literature from you last month have you tried to visit again? Have weeks passed by without any further contact? Genuine concern for their everlasting welfare should move you to return as soon as possible, preferably within a few days, so that the conversation will still be fresh in mind. By returning promptly to further their interest, you may be able to forestall Satan's efforts before he "comes and takes away the word that was sown in them."—Mark 4:15.

[5] **Preparation Is Essential:** Your effectiveness in making return visits is directly related to how well you prepare. Plan your approach before going. The back page of the April 1997 *Our Kingdom Ministry* provides several presentations that may be used with good success when you offer the magazines or the *Require* brochure. The next thing is to have some thoughts in mind to share when you return. What can be said when you follow up interest? How can a Bible study be started?

[6] ***When following up a discussion on what it will take to clean up the earth and make it a better place in which to live, you might say:***

■ "On my previous visit, we agreed that drastic steps need to be taken before the earth can be made into a peaceful paradise. Do you think humans have what is needed to accomplish this task? [Allow for response.] Please note why it will be necessary for God to intervene in man's affairs." Read Psalm 37:38. Then turn to lesson 5 in the *Require* brochure, and use selected portions of paragraphs 4-5 to show how God will fulfill this prophecy. Follow through by offering a Bible study using the brochure.

[7] ***If you discussed God's Kingdom and placed the "Require" brochure on the initial call, when returning you could say something like this:***

■ "When we last spoke, we identified God's Kingdom as being a real government that will rule the entire earth. The Bible shows that Christ Jesus will be its ruler. Can you see any benefits in having this kind of government and leader?" Allow for response. Open the *Require* brochure to lesson 6. Using selected points in paragraphs 6-7 and the illustration on page 13, show what God's Kingdom will do for mankind in the future. Read Daniel 2:44, and if appropriate, introduce the *Knowledge* book and offer a Bible study.

[8] ***If you found someone who acknowledged that the world's religions have created problems for humanity, you might ask this on the return visit:***

■ "Have you ever wondered how we can know which religion has God's approval? [Allow for response.] This brochure *What Does God Require of Us?* gives the identifying marks of true religion." Turn to lesson 13, and highlight the five italicized points in paragraphs 3-7. You may continue by saying: "In addition to finding the true religion, we must find out what God requires of us individually." Read John 4:23, 24. Offer to discuss this further. Turn to lesson 1 in the brochure, and demonstrate how we study.

[9] ***When you return to continue a discussion about family happiness, you could say something similar to the following:***

■ "When we first met, I shared with you the secret of family happiness, which is to apply the counsel found in God's Word, the Bible. When it comes to addressing the needs of a modern family, do you believe that the Bible is out-of-date or up-to-date?" Allow for response. Present the *Knowledge* book. Turn to chapter 2, and read the quotation in paragraph 13. Using the points in paragraph 3, offer a family Bible study.

[10] By keeping accurate records, making essential preparation, and returning promptly to further their interest, we can demonstrate the kind of neighbor love that will attract them to the way of salvation.—Matt. 22:39; Gal. 6:10.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

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"Do Your Utmost"

[1] When we dedicated ourselves to Jehovah, we promised to give our very best to him. Appropriately, the apostle Peter encouraged first-century Christians to do their utmost in making sure of their standing before Jehovah. (2 Pet. 1:10) We surely want to do our utmost to please Jehovah in serving him today. What does this entail? As our relationship with Jehovah deepens and we meditate on all that he has done for us, our heart moves us always to do our best in his service. We want to improve the quality and, where possible, increase the quantity of our ministry. —Ps. 34:8; 2 Tim. 2:15.

[2] A young brother who wanted to do more in the ministry found that a regular study of God's Word deepened his appreciation for Jehovah and instilled in him greater zeal. This motivated him to apply for the pioneer service. A sister who found it hard to talk to strangers practiced some of the presentations in the *Reasoning* book and soon began to enjoy greater success in her ministry. She was able to conduct a Bible study with a couple who accepted the truth.

[3] **Rejoice in What You Can Do:** Some of us experience difficult circumstances such as poor health, family opposition, poverty, or unresponsiveness in the territory. Many other problems that are common in these last days may hinder our service. (Luke 21:34, ftn.; 2 Tim. 3:1) Does this mean we have failed in our dedication to Jehovah? Not if we are serving him to *our* utmost.

[4] It is not wise to judge ourselves based on what others are able to accomplish. Instead, the Scriptures encourage us to "let each one prove what his own work is." Giving of ourselves fully to the extent that we are personally able pleases Jehovah and gives us "cause for exultation."—Gal. 6:4; Col. 3:23, 24.

[5] May we heed Peter's words to 'do our utmost to be found finally by God spotless and unblemished and in peace.' (2 Pet. 3:14) That spirit will make us feel secure and will bring us the peace of mind that only Jehovah can give.—Ps. 4:8.

Youths—What Are Your Spiritual Goals?

[1] Jehovah knows how important meaningful work and attainable goals are in bringing happiness. (See Genesis 1:28; 2: 15, 19.) Today, Jehovah has given his people the assignment to preach and to teach. We also have the ultimate goal of attaining everlasting life in Paradise. Along the way, we need to set progressive spiritual goals if we are to avoid misdirecting our energies and resources.—1 Cor. 9:26.

[2] **Realistic Goals for Young People:** Youths ought to have theocratic goals that are within reach according to their individual capabilities. (1 Tim. 4: 15) Some very young ones have achieved the goal of reciting the books of the Bible even before they learned to read. Through the family study, children learn to prepare for meetings so that they can meet the goals of making meaningful comments and enrolling in the Theocratic Ministry School. When children accompany their parents in field service, they learn to have a part in giving a witness as they progress toward the goal of becoming unbaptized publishers. Parents should keep before their young children the goal of dedication and baptism.

[3] If you are a teenager, what do your spiritual goals include? "Remember, now, your Grand Creator" by focusing on the really important goals in life. (Eccl. 12:1; Ps. 71:17) Why not auxiliary pioneer during the months you have time off from school? Have you thought about taking up the ministry full-time as a regular pioneer? What about learning a new language so that in the future you could assist a foreign-language group or congregation in your area or somewhere else? Many who are now serving at Bethel or as traveling overseers or missionaries set special full-time service as their goal when they were still in school. Why not do the same yourself?

[4] While still of tender age, strive to imitate Jesus' example. Even at the young age of 12, he spoke freely about spiritual matters. (Luke 2:42-49, 52) Setting beneficial goals for yourself to do personal study, to read the Bible daily, and to fellowship regularly with mature Christians at meetings and in service will help you acquire the skill to teach others about God's Kingdom the way Jesus did.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR JUNE

Week Starting June 2

Song 181

8 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Comment on March field service report for the country and for the local congregation.

15 min: "Do Your Utmost." Questions and answers.—See also April 15, 1993, *Watchtower,* pages 28-30.

22 min: "Knowledge From God Answers Many Questions." Chairman discusses article with two or three publishers, including a youth. Comment on paragraph 1, stressing why the *Knowledge* book is so effective in helping us answer questions. Demonstrate a practice session, and suggest improvements after each presentation.

Song 200 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 9

Song 189

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: Summertime Reminders. Talk and audience discussion. Most of us plan extra activities during summer months, and these may include vacationing, visiting relatives, or enjoying recreation. How can we organize things so that theocratic activities are not neglected? Discuss the following: (1) Attending all three days of the district convention. (2) Maintaining regular attendance at the meetings, whether at home or away. (3) Arranging to have a regular share in the ministry, and if away from home, sending field service reports to the congregation. (4) Taking along a supply of literature for informal witnessing when traveling. (5) Doing more evening witnessing during the longer daylight hours. (6) Enrolling as an auxiliary pioneer for one or more months of the summer. (7) Elders keeping congregation activities well organized and making sure that each one's assigned duties are cared for when someone is absent.

20 min: Teaching Others—An Urgent Need. Talk by an elder. Review the 1996 worldwide service report on page 33 of the *1997 Yearbook.* The intensified effort to witness to people wherever they can be found is bearing fruit. The urgent need now is to follow up placements and teach people the truth. When we contact them in public places, tactfully request their name and address so that a return visit can be made. We need to do more than just plant Kingdom seed; we must also water it. (1 Cor. 3:6-8) When seed is sown in fine soil, good teaching can help the person to get the sense of it. (Matt. 13:23) We ought to share as fully and skillfully as possible in the teaching work. (Heb. 5: 12a) Incorporate points from the June 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, paragraphs 25-6. Emphasize endeavoring to start studies in either the *Require* brochure or the *Knowledge* book.

Song 204 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 16

Song 192

10 min: Local announcements. Suggest talking points in current magazines.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: Identifying Your Religion as True or False. An elder leads a discussion with two or three capable publishers, based on the December 22, 1989, *Awake!,* page 18. Many apparently sincere people are being called on repeatedly. However, they have never accepted a Bible study. Discuss how points in this *Awake!* article could be used to make them aware of the need to act in harmony with accurate knowledge. Refer to key points in the *Knowledge* book, chapter 5: "Whose Worship Does God Accept?" Read paragraph 20. Return visits can be made on such individuals to encourage them kindly and tactfully to accept a study and to attend meetings.

Song 201 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 23

Song 193

10 min: Local announcements. Outline special field service arrangements for July 4.

15 min: What Are They Saying About Us? A talk based on the information found in the *Watch Tower Publications Index 1986-1995,* pages 341-3. Select outstanding "Statements by Others" about Jehovah's Witnesses—our conduct and our work. Show how others have been favorably impressed by what they see in us. Explain why this should motivate us always to conduct ourselves properly and to persevere in our work. Point out how to use such favorable comments when talking to acquaintances and interested persons who want to know more about us.

20 min: "Parents—Train Your Children to Preach." Questions and answers. Include the direction in the *Our Ministry* book, pages 99-100, under the subheading "Helping Young People."

Song 211 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 30

Song 197

10 min: Local announcements. Remind all to turn in field service reports for June.

20 min: "Youths—What Are Your Spiritual Goals?" Two fathers discuss the article together. They consider how to help their children appreciate why it is essential to set theocratic goals, which will bring spiritual blessings, rather than to pursue materialistic interests.—See also *Our Ministry* book, pages 116-18.

15 min: Preparing for July Literature Offer. Pick out one or two brochures that have been well

(*Continued on page 3, col. 3*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **June:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. Concentrate on starting home Bible studies. **July and August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures: *Does God Really Care About Us?*, *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *Should You Believe in the Trinity?*, *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*, *What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?*, and *When Someone You Love Dies*. **September:** *The Secret of Family Happiness*.

■ Since the Gilead graduation will be held on Saturday, September 6, 1997, no tours will be conducted that day at the Society's facilities at Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York. Any who have planned to visit on that Saturday should reschedule their visit to another convenient time.

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on June 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. Make announcement to congregation when this has been done.

■ New Publications Available:

"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial" —Arabic

A Peaceful New World—Will It Come? (for Jews) (Tract No. 17) —Romanian

Service Meetings (*Cont'd*)

received in the local territory, and review some of the outstanding points about each. Suggest ways that these could be incorporated into a presentation. Remind all to mention the donation arrangement, to keep a record of placements, and to return and cultivate the interest.

Song 109 and concluding prayer.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.*

June 2:	**Chapters 103-105**
June 9:	**Chapters 106-107**
June 16:	**Chapters 108-110**
June 23:	**Chapter 111** to subheading "The Wise and the Foolish Virgins"
June 30:	**Chapter 111** from subheading "The Wise and the Foolish Virgins" to end of chapter

MARCH SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**181**	**125.9**	**91.9**	**55.9**	**4.4**
Pios.	**70,472**	**83.8**	**50.3**	**27.1**	**2.0**
Aux. Pios.	**116,335**	**57.5**	**36.0**	**13.9**	**0.9**
Pubs.	**760,306**	**10.2**	**7.4**	**3.6**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**947,294**		Baptized: **2,112**		

"Wanted—100,000 Auxiliary Pioneers" was the call in the February insert of *Our Kingdom Ministry.* There were 116,335 auxiliary pioneers in March, which was the most ever for that month! In fact, the total of 186,988 who auxiliary, regular, and special pioneered exceeded by more than 4,000 the all-time peak of pioneers that was set in April 1989. This increased activity in March also prompted new peaks of 20,401,454 hours and 6,257,046 return visits! We pray Jehovah's blessing on our efforts to continue answering the call to proclaim his Kingdom with great intensity.

Parents—Train Your Children to Preach

[1] Our congregations are blessed with many children who have a sincere desire to serve God. (Eccl. 12:1) They are included among those invited by Jehovah to share in praising him. (Ps. 148:12-14) Hence, the day-to-day training that parents give their children should include instruction in how to share their faith with others in the Kingdom-preaching work.—Deut. 6:6, 7.

[2] **Train Children in Progressive Steps:** Children deserve to be trained at a *very early* age to accompany their parents in the ministry. Before going in service, prepare your children to participate in a meaningful way.* Determine in advance what you expect them to do at the door. Very young children can give out tracts and handbills and invite people to the Kingdom Hall. Young ones who read well can be invited to read scriptures at the door. They can offer the magazines, using a brief presentation. As they gain experience, train them to use the Bible in their presentation. Many young publishers have started their own magazine route and regularly make return visits. It is best for a child to work with an adult rather than with another youngster. The adult can explain to the householder that the young one is being trained in the ministry.

[3] One little girl asked the elders for their help so that she could qualify as a Kingdom publisher. Even though she was only five years old at the time and did not know how to read, she could present the Kingdom message effectively at the doors. She memorized the location of the scriptures, turned to them, asked the householder to read them, and then she gave the explanation.

[4] Children should also be taught by parental example the value of having a good schedule for sharing regularly in the ministry. Parents need to establish a consistent weekly routine for service and stick to it, so that the children know what portion of the week is always set aside for the preaching work.

[5] When children are trained from a tender age to love and enjoy the ministry, they will be motivated to reach out for greater privileges in the future, perhaps including the pioneer service. (1 Cor. 15:58) All of us should encourage the children in our midst to make good progress as praisers of Jehovah.

* Love FOR People

Don't love = BAD

Knowledge From God Answers Many Questions

[1] Before you came to an accurate knowledge of the truth, likely you had many questions about life that you were unable to answer. How happy you were to receive Bible-based answers to those questions! Now you are able to help others find those same answers. (Compare 2 Timothy 2:2.) You can share with them the knowledge of God that leads to everlasting life. (John 17:3) But how can you help someone appreciate the value of this knowledge? Well, think of the questions that the truth answered for you. What is it that truth-seekers desire to know? Thinking along these lines can help you to offer the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. The following suggestions may help you when preparing for witnessing during June.

[2] ***Since many people wonder why there is so much suffering in the world, this approach might get a good response:***

■ "When disaster strikes or when acts of crime and violence are on the increase, people often ask why such terrible things happen. What would be your answer?" Allow for and acknowledge the person's response. Then turn to chapter 8 in the *Knowledge* book, and call attention to what is stated in paragraph 2. Explain that this book presents the Bible's explanation as to why bad things happen, and say: "If you promise to read it, I would be pleased to leave this copy with you." If the book is accepted, explain the donation arrangement.

[3] ***When calling back where you placed the "Knowledge" book, you could say:***

■ "I am interested in the conclusion you reached about why there is so much suffering in the world. Do you agree with the Bible's answer as outlined in the book?" Allow for response. Read paragraph 17 on page 77 in the *Knowledge* book, and offer to read Romans 9:14 from the householder's Bible. Then say: "The good news is that God does not unjustly cause us pain and suffering. He has promised to give us everlasting life in peace and happiness. The first chapter in this book is entitled 'You Can Have a Happy Future!' I'd like to explain how that can be true for you and your loved ones." Turn to chapter 1, and demonstrate our study method. Cover as much of the chapter as is appropriate under the circumstances.

[4] ***You might choose to use the introduction that appears on page 14 in the "Reasoning" book, under the heading "Old Age/Death":***

■ "Have you ever asked, 'Is death the end of it all? Or is there something else after death?' [Allow for response.] The Bible clears up any question we might have about death. [Read Ecclesiastes 9:5, 10.] It also shows that there is a real hope for those who have faith. [Turn to paragraph 13 on page 84 in the *Knowledge* book; read and explain Jesus' words found at John 11:25.] This entire chapter is devoted to answering the question, What happens to our dead loved ones? If you would like to read it, I can leave this copy with you." Allow the householder the opportunity to make a donation.

[5] ***When making the return visit, you could renew acquaintance and then say:***

■ "Previously we talked about what happens when a person dies. Many people believe that any life after death will be in either heaven or hell. But have you ever thought about the possibility of the dead living again right here on earth? [Allow for response.] According to the Bible, resurrected ones will be among the meek who inherit the earth. [Read Psalm 37:11, 29, then discuss paragraph 20 on page 88 in the *Knowledge* book.] That hope has given comfort to millions of people who lived in fear of death. This book will help you understand the matter better. May I demonstrate how?"

[6] ***If you prefer a simplified presentation, you might try this one:***

■ "I would like to show you an illustration in this book, *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. Isn't this a beautiful picture?" Open the book so that the householder can see pages 4-5. Allow for his response. Then read the words on page 5. Conclude by saying: "You may have this book to read for yourself. There is no charge for it, but we do accept small donations for our worldwide work." Find out what would be a good time to return to follow up any interest that is shown.

[7] We have the knowledge from God that answers life's important questions. Prepare diligently, and Jehovah will bless your efforts to share this life-giving information with those who are seeking the truth.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

July 1997 For United States of America Vol. 40, No. 7

Faithfulness Is Rewarded

[1] At Hebrews 11:6 we are told that God "becomes the rewarder of those earnestly seeking him." One way in which he rewards his devoted servants who have been 'faithful in a few things' is by 'appointing them over many things.' (Matt. 25:23) In other words, Jehovah often rewards good work by giving his faithful witnesses additional privileges of service.

[2] The apostle Paul's faithfulness was rewarded by his being assigned to a ministry that took him into the cities and villages of Europe and Asia Minor. (1 Tim. 1:12) Although much effort was involved in fully accomplishing his ministry, Paul highly esteemed the privilege he had received. (Rom. 11:13; Col. 1: 25) He showed his heartfelt appreciation by earnestly looking for opportunities to preach. By his zealous activity, he clearly showed that he was living his faith. His example moves us to treasure our privileges of service.

[3] **Jehovah Has Given Us a Ministry:** How do we show the same view of this privileged reward that Paul showed? We look for ways to increase our share in the ministry. We take advantage of every opportunity to witness informally as well as from door to door. We follow up on all not-at-homes and make return visits on all who are interested. And we keep the appointments we make to conduct home Bible studies.

[4] Regarding our ministry, Paul admonished: "Be at it urgently." (2 Tim. 4:2) Something that is urgent calls for immediate attention. Do we go about our ministry in an urgent fashion, giving it priority in our lives? For example, we would not want to allow our recreational activities and other personal pursuits on the weekend to interfere with the time we ought to devote to the field ministry. Since we are convinced that the end of this system is fast approaching, we are also convinced that preaching the good news of the Kingdom is the most important work we can do.

[5] Our faithfulness to God is marked by our being true and loyal to him and constant in the work he has assigned us. Let us fully accomplish our ministry, so that Jehovah will reward our faithfulness in a large way.

Witness Wherever There Are People

[1] Recognizing the role God's spirit played in his ministry, the apostle Paul stated: "God kept making it grow." He also acknowledged: "We are God's fellow workers." (1 Cor. 3:5-9) This is a marvelous privilege. How can we demonstrate publicly that we appreciate being fellow workers with God? By declaring the good news to all whom we meet in the house-to-house work and everywhere else.

[2] We are commanded to "make disciples of people." (Matt. 28:19) If we contact only a few people when we share in the ministry, we may tire quickly and feel we have accomplished little. On the other hand, we enjoy our ministry most when we are able to find many people and converse with them. This can be rather challenging, since it requires some initiative on our part to go wherever the people are so that we can make contact with them.

[3] **Practical Examples:** We can witness to people at markets, parks, rest stops, and transportation terminals. When you ride public transportation, are you prepared to give a witness along the way? Two Witnesses who were riding in a crowded bus to their meeting for service carried on a conversation about the picture of Paradise in the *Knowledge* book, discussing God's promises for the future. As they had hoped would happen, a young man standing close by listened in and was impressed by what he heard. Before leaving the bus, he accepted a book and requested that someone visit his home.

[4] Many publishers have found joy in doing informal witnessing. One sister went to the local shopping center on an afternoon and approached people who had finished their shopping but who did not appear to be in a hurry. She placed all the literature she had in her bag. One man who was waiting in his car was happy to receive the magazines from her. He had attended meetings before, and their conversation rekindled his interest.

[5] It is a privilege to exalt Jehovah's name. By demonstrating our zeal for the preaching work, we show that we have not missed the purpose of God's undeserved kindness toward us. Because "now is the especially acceptable time" to help others, let us go wherever there are people and witness to them about Jehovah's "day of salvation."—2 Cor. 6:1, 2.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR JULY

Week Starting July 7

Song 6

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Comment on April field service report for the country and the local congregation.

15 min: "Faithfulness Is Rewarded." Questions and answers. Include example related in the January 22, 1993, *Awake!*, pages 18-21.

20 min: "Help Others Find Comfort." Audience discussion. Have one or two presentations demonstrated. Invite audience to relate other ways they have started conversations, using the same brochures. Encourage using simple, well-chosen words to stimulate interest. (See *School Guidebook,* page 7, paragraphs 9-11.) Mention the other brochures that might be offered and that the congregation has in stock. When placing brochures, do not hesitate to make positive mention of the donation arrangement.

Song 70 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 14

Song 5

12 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Review "We Will Study the *Family Happiness* Book."

18 min: "Witness Wherever There Are People." A talk. As time permits, additional experiences may be shared from the *1997 Yearbook,* pages 43-6.

15 min: Parents—Teach Your Children From Infancy. Elder discusses Scriptural principles outlining need for parents to teach their children from infancy. (Prov. 22:6; 2 Tim. 3:14, 15) Some parents feel that serious Bible education for children should not be provided until they are old enough to make their own decisions. In such cases many children have been lost to the world. Spiritual instruction should begin in infancy. (*g*97 3/8 26-7; *w*88 8/1 12-13) Interview married couple who show concern about the spirituality of their children. Show how father takes the lead but that both parents do their part in providing a consistent, thorough program for teaching their children. Couple relate what they have been doing in an effort to teach their children the truth, applying suggestions the organization has provided on having a good, practical program for teaching at home. Elder emphasizes importance of applying what God's Word exhorts parents to do.—*w*85 4/1 23; Eph. 6:1-4.

Song 71 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 21

Song 14

12 min: Local announcements. Review "New Circuit Assembly Program."

13 min: "Who Will Go for Us?" A positive talk. Include the encouragement to regular pioneer and the experience found in the February 1997 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, paragraphs 16-17. Those who cannot be regular pioneers may wish to plan which month(s) to auxiliary pioneer during the coming service year.

20 min: Be Prepared to Do Informal Witnessing. Every day, we encounter opportunities to witness to people we meet. When an opening occurs, we may find we have no Bible or publications to use. Plan ahead. At home, keep some literature accessible near the door where you greet visitors. Put a variety of literature items in a case or purse, and keep it with you or in your car, at your workplace, or in your locker at school. Carry something with you when you ride public transportation. Pack some literature when you take a business trip, travel to a convention, or go on vacation. Discuss additional suggestions in the *School Guidebook,* pages 80-2, paragraphs 11-16. Briefly demonstrate several ways to approach a salesman, a workmate, a schoolmate, another traveler, or a vacationer.

Song 72 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 28

Song 15

12 min: Local announcements. Remind all to turn in field service reports. Review literature offer for August. Concentrate on following up brochures placed in July with return visits in August, trying to start Bible studies. Using the March 1997 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, point out some of the essentials for an effective return visit. Studies should be started in the *Require* brochure or the *Knowledge* book.

15 min: Local needs.

18 min: Fully Accomplish Your Ministry. Talk by service overseer based on *Our Ministry* book, pages 5-8. Emphasize the importance and urgency of the preaching work, stimulating all to take their responsibility as ministers seriously.

Song 75 and concluding prayer.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.*

July 7:	**Chapters 112-113**
July 14:	**Chapters 114-115**
July 21:	**Chapter 116** to subheading "Further Departing Admonition"
July 28:	**Chapter 116** from subheading "Further Departing Admonition" to end of chapter

APRIL SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**181**	**122.9**	**98.4**	**51.5**	**4.1**
Pios.	**69,091**	**81.0**	**50.1**	**26.0**	**2.0**
Aux. Pios.	**78,640**	**57.1**	**37.2**	**14.1**	**0.9**
Pubs.	**776,485**	**9.7**	**7.2**	**3.5**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**924,397**		Baptized: **3,729**		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **July and August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures: *Does God Really Care About Us?*, *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *Should You Believe in the Trinity?*, *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*, *What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?*, and *When Someone You Love Dies*. **September:** *The Secret of Family Happiness*. **October:** Individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered.
- With five full weekends, the month of August may be a convenient time for many to auxiliary pioneer.
- Starting in September, circuit overseers will give the public talk entitled "Trust in Jehovah's Saving Power."

"Who Will Go for Us?"

When this question was raised by Jehovah, Isaiah immediately responded: "Here I am! Send me." (Isa. 6:8) Because the harvest is great today, the same call is being sounded now. More full-time workers—regular pioneers—are urgently needed! (Matt. 9:37) Are you willing to volunteer? If so, September 1, the beginning of the 1998 service year, would be a fine time to enroll as a pioneer. Why not ask the elders for an application?

We Will Study the *Family Happiness* Book

You will be glad to know that starting the week of October 6, 1997, we will consider the book *The Secret of Family Happiness* at the Congregation Book Study. No one will want to miss out on the group study of this practical Scriptural guide for a happy family life. The study schedule will allow for a thorough examination of every paragraph and Bible text in the book.

The entire first chapter will be considered the first week of the study, since it contains few unquoted scriptures. For the same reason, chapter 15 will be considered in one session. However, all other chapters will be divided into two parts, with about half of a chapter being considered each week. Thus, there will be sufficient time to read and discuss all cited scriptures as well as to examine carefully the application of all quoted scriptures in each paragraph.

An important feature of the study will be a discussion of the material in the teaching box at the conclusion of each chapter. Therefore, ample time should be allotted to consider the questions and the cited scriptures in the box.

Congregation Book Study conductors are urged to give special attention to their preparation for the study and to encourage all assigned to their group, including new ones, to prepare well, attend regularly, and participate. —*om* 74-6.

New Circuit Assembly Program

"Keeping Jehovah's Day Close in Mind" is the theme of the two-day circuit assembly program beginning in September. (2 Pet. 3:12) It is designed to arouse our sense of urgency. Earth's inhabitants will soon experience Jehovah's judgments. Who will survive "the great day of God the Almighty"? Only those who remain spiritually awake and who establish a life pattern of "holy acts of conduct and deeds of godly devotion."—Rev. 16:14; 2 Pet. 3:11.

Baptism is essential for a person to survive Jehovah's day. (1 Pet. 3:21) Publishers who desire to be baptized at the assembly should tell the presiding overseer, who will make the necessary arrangements.

A four-part symposium, "The Sort of Persons We Ought to Be," will clearly show what actions are involved in keeping close in mind the presence of Jehovah's day. The public talk, "Act Wisely as Jehovah's Day Nears," will explain what it means to 'seek Jehovah, righteousness, and meekness,' so as to be a survivor. —Zeph. 2:3.

The circuit assembly will conclude with two motivating talks by the traveling overseers, entitled: "Does Your Life Center Around the Truth?" and "Planning Ahead With Jehovah's Day in Mind." These discourses will move us to examine our life and make any needed adjustments. Bible prophecy and world events clearly indicate that Jehovah's day is near. This assembly program will encourage us to 'keep our senses and be watchful.' (1 Pet. 5:8) Make definite plans to attend both days.

Help Others Find Comfort

1 Many people are tired of hearing about disasters, wars, crime, and suffering. Comfort, though conspicuously absent from today's news reports, is something that mankind really needs. To comfort means "to give strength and hope to" and "to ease the grief or trouble of" another. As Jehovah's Witnesses, we are equipped to help people in this way. (2 Cor. 1:3, 4) Our Bible-based brochures that we will be offering in July and August contain comforting messages of truth. (Rom. 15:4) Here are some suggestions for presenting them under various circumstances:

2 ***A tragic news story can create an opportunity to give a witness and bring comfort to others, perhaps by your saying something like this:***

■ "When such things happen, some wonder whether God really exists and, if he does, whether he cares about us. What do you think? [Allow for response.] One way to determine whether there is a God is to apply a well-established principle." Read Hebrews 3:4. Point out other things around us that obviously required a maker. Then continue: "I have a brochure that I know you will find comforting. It is entitled *Does God Really Care About Us?* [Read the questions on the cover.] It contains convincing proof not only that God does exist but that he will soon bring an end to all the unjust conditions we face today. Would you like to read it?" Arrange to return.

3 ***On the return visit, you might say:***

■ "We were talking about the proof of God's existence when I left the brochure *Does God Really Care About Us?* Perhaps you noticed this point on page 7. [Show the picture and summarize paragraph 15.] This is just one example showing that a caring God must really exist. [Read paragraph 27 on page 9.] A personal study of the Bible has helped me to cope with life's everyday problems because it gives God's view of matters." Offer to demonstrate a study.

4 ***Telephone witnessing can be done using the brochure "What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?" You could introduce yourself and say:***

■ "I am calling you with an important message because I cannot come to see you personally." Read the first paragraph on page 4 of the brochure, doing so naturally, as if you were conversing with the individual in person. Ask him what he thinks, and allow for a response. "I have my Bible open to Isaiah 45:18. This verse shows that the earth was created with us in mind. May I read it to you?" Afterward, explain the purpose of the brochure, and ask how you might deliver a copy.

5 ***On the follow-up call, you might try this approach to start a study:***

■ "I would like to build on our last conversation by illustrating who it is that can tell us the purpose of life. [Paraphrase paragraphs 1 and 2 on page 6 in the *Purpose of Life* brochure.] Revelation 4:11 explains that Jehovah God is our Creator. [Read.] He surely must have had a reason for creating us. People who have wanted to find out what it is have studied God's written Word, the Bible. I would like to offer you that opportunity." Explain how our free home Bible study course is conducted, and make arrangements to start the study.

6 ***This positive approach might comfort those who have experienced the death of a loved one:***

■ "I am doing a public service in behalf of all who have lost a loved one in death. Since this may be one of the hardest things any of us will ever have to cope with, this brochure, *When Someone You Love Dies,* has been prepared. It has helped millions of people. I would like to show you what it says about an exciting promise made by Jesus Christ. [Read the fifth paragraph on page 26, including John 5:21, 28, 29.] Notice this picture on page 29 depicting the Gospel account of Jesus actually raising Lazarus from the dead. If you would like to read this comforting brochure, I will be glad to leave it with you."

7 ***When you return, you could again show the picture on page 29 of the brochure "When Someone You Love Dies" and say:***

■ "Recall our discussion about Christ's resurrection of Lazarus. [Read the caption on page 28, and consider the material under the subheading "Did It Really Happen?"] If your heart yearns to believe that you could see a deceased loved one again, let me help you to make the resurrection hope your own." Offer a home Bible study.

8 May we do our best in the months ahead to imitate Jesus by 'comforting all the mourning ones.'—Isa. 61:2.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

August 1997 For United States of America Vol. 40, No. 8

Meetings Incite to Fine Works

[1] Two essential features of our worship are attending congregation meetings and sharing in field service. The two go hand in hand. One influences the other. Christian meetings incite to fine works, the finest of which is the Kingdom-preaching and disciple-making work. (Heb. 10:24) If we were to quit attending meetings, we might soon cease to preach because we would not be incited to do so.

[2] At weekly meetings, we receive spiritual instruction designed to motivate us to preach. The urgency of the times is kept before us, impelling us to take the Bible's life-giving message to others. We are encouraged and strengthened to endure in the preaching work. (Matt. 24:13, 14) By taking advantage of opportunities to comment at the meetings, we become more accustomed to expressing our faith before others. (Heb. 10:23) By enrolling in the Theocratic Ministry School, we receive training to be more effective ministers and to improve our teaching skills. —2 Tim. 4:2.

[3] **How Service Meetings Incite Us to Preach:** All of us are encouraged to look over the material in *Our Kingdom Ministry* ahead of time. This information is then impressed on our minds as we attend the Service Meeting and see presentations demonstrated from the platform. When in field service, we can think back on *Our Kingdom Ministry,* recall the presentations that were demonstrated, and thereby give a more effective witness. This has been the experience of many publishers.

[4] As a follow-up to Service Meetings, some make appointments with others to share together in the ministry. Publishers have field points fresh in mind and are stimulated to try them out because these meetings have encouraged them to have a share in the preaching work each week.

[5] There is no substitute for our Christian meetings, where we gather with fellow worshipers and are incited to fine works. If our ministry is to flourish, we must regularly attend the congregation meetings. May we show appreciation for this wonderful provision from Jehovah by "not forsaking the gathering of ourselves together."—Heb. 10:25.

Older Ones Preach Without Letup

[1] As people grow older, many of them focus on retiring from their regular secular work and enjoying a carefree life during their remaining years. They may feel that they have worked hard enough and now deserve a rest. Or they may just want to enjoy life, whatever is left of it.—Luke 12:19.

[2] As Jehovah's dedicated servants, we have a different focus on life. We know there is no retirement from God's service. Our outlook is positive because we keep "everlasting life in view." (Jude 21) Years of accumulated knowledge and experience may improve a person's discernment and insight. This could enable one to become wiser and more balanced and to manifest a deeper appreciation for life. All these attributes serve one well as a minister of the good news.

[3] Growing old is not just a matter of physical aging; it also involves one's mental attitude. If you expect to live a long time and you strive to stay young in your outlook, your chances of doing both may increase. Older people can enrich their lives by increasing their spiritual knowledge and sharing it with others. —1 Cor. 9:23.

[4] **Real-Life Examples:** At the age of 86, one sister said: "When I meditate on the 60 years that have gone by since I learned the truth, God's reassuring promise wells up in my heart. Yes, Jehovah who will act in loyalty with loyal ones is letting us reap bountiful joy." (Ps. 18:25) One elderly brother recalled how the death of his wife came as a severe shock to him, after which his health deteriorated badly. He said: "Yet, by Jehovah's undeserved kindness, I revived sufficiently to be able to enter the pioneer service two years later. How grateful I am to Jehovah that my health has actually improved with this increase in preaching activity!"

[5] How commendable it is that so many older ones are determined to continue preaching to whatever extent their health and strength permit—without letup! They have good reason to exclaim: "O God, you have taught me from my youth on, and until now I keep telling about your wonderful works." —Ps. 71:17.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR AUGUST

Week Starting August 4

Song 16

7 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Comment on May field service report for the country and the local congregation.

13 min: "Meetings Incite to Fine Works." Questions and answers. Show benefits of upbuilding conversation before and after meetings.—See *School Guidebook,* page 82, paragraphs 17-18.

25 min: "Rely on Jehovah to Make Things Grow." Talk and demonstrations. Emphasize the need to make return visits where brochures are placed. Have two well-prepared demonstrations showing how to start studies. Include suggestions from the March 1997 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, paragraphs 7-11.

Song 78 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 11

Song 20

5 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: "Older Ones Preach Without Letup." Questions and answers. Include experience about elderly grandmother who auxiliary pioneered, from July 1, 1988, *Watchtower,* page 13.

25 min: "Kingdom Hall Construction in the United States" and "International Kingdom Hall Construction." Questions and answers.

Song 71 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 18

Song 14

10 min: Local announcements. Review "New Special Assembly Day Program."

10 min: Local needs.

25 min: Make Return Visits, Using the Brochure *When Someone You Love Dies.* Show how to raise a question and refer to the brochure for the answer. For example, the brochure answers the following questions: Is there any hope for the dead? (Pages 5-6) Is it wrong to grieve? (Pages 8-9) How can one cope with grief? (Page 18) How can others help? (Pages 20-3) How can children be helped to understand death? (Page 25) What comfort does the Bible give? (Page 27) Then, briefly discuss with two capable publishers how they have used this brochure on return visits to answer questions commonly asked about death. Demonstrate how to use the brochure when making a return visit.

Song 94 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 25

Song 23

10 min: Local announcements. Remind all to turn in field service reports. Announce service arrangements for September 1.

15 min: "Get the Best out of School." Father discusses article with children, including helpful points from December 22, 1995, *Awake!,* pages 7-11.

20 min: Preach With a Purpose. An elder and one or two ministerial servants review *Our Ministry* book, pages 8-12. Focus on the compelling reasons why we should maintain a positive, progressive attitude toward our ministry and always cooperate closely with the organization.

Song 100 and concluding prayer.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.*

August 4:	**Chapters 117-118**
August 11:	**Chapters 119-120**
August 18:	**Chapters 121-122**
August 25:	**Chapters 123-124**

Get the Best out of School

1 This is the time of year when many youths ask: "Do I have to go back to school already?" Although there may be some challenges and anxieties associated with returning to school, there are also many benefits to be gained by young people who apply themselves so as to get the best out of their education.

2 A good basic education can contribute to one's spiritual progress. What a person does during his youth has a great bearing on what he can accomplish as an adult. Even in the matter of schooling, "whatever a man is sowing, this he will also reap." (Gal. 6:7) Youths who diligently study their school lessons can acquire skills that will make them more useful to Jehovah.

3 Careful forethought is required if one is to make the right choices of school courses. Parents should help their children select the ones that offer the most practical training in order to reach spiritual goals in life. By developing their skills, youths will have the advantage of being able to support themselves in the pioneer work. Their basic education should help them to praise Jehovah no matter where they serve.

4 Young people, try to get the best out of your school years. In doing so, focus on living a full life in sacred service, rather than on pursuing a worldly career. Endeavor to use your life doing Jehovah's will. Thereby, you will make your way successful, to Jehovah's praise.—Ps. 1:3.

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YRS 9/1

Kingdom Hall Construction in the United States

Bring families

[1] When we look at the worldwide field, it is heartwarming to see the grand increase being experienced by Jehovah's earthly organization. Last year in the United States alone, 246 new congregations were formed, while a total of 3,288 congregations were added worldwide. With all this growth, it is not surprising that there is a need for more Kingdom Halls. How KH Built?

[2] Many brothers and sisters show outstanding zeal and support for Jehovah's organization by volunteering their time and assets in Kingdom Hall construction. The 75 Regional Building Committees operating in the contiguous United States care for the needs of about 140 congregations each in their assigned region. Every year, approximately 200 new Kingdom Halls are built and another 200 are renovated. The regional committees have been entrusted with the oversight of these projects, and their labors are appreciated. The entire arrangement for Kingdom Hall construction is accomplished through the Christian spirit of giving and self-sacrifice—the opposite of the spirit so commonly displayed in the world.—2 Tim. 3:2, 4.

[3] To assist in standardizing Kingdom Halls, the Society has supplied regional committees with a U.S. standard Kingdom Hall design package containing plans on CAD (Computer Aided Design/Drafting). This has helped to economize both the time and the resources of volunteer workers. It has also assisted in the wise administration of the Society Kingdom Hall Fund. Elders now make their selection from these basic designs. After receiving this new tool, one Regional Building Committee stated: "We were very pleased and indeed quite excited to receive the design package. . . . Brothers experienced in architecture and engineering have estimated a saving in time of 50 to 60 percent by using these new designs. Having this package will also help us achieve more uniform, consistent standards for Kingdom Halls." As congregations cooperate in supporting the standardization of Kingdom Halls, we anticipate that the load of the many dedicated architects, engineers, and contractors who voluntarily offer their assistance will be considerably lightened. How?

Now **Volunteers Support a Fine Work:** The Society is grateful to the many volunteers who help with Kingdom Hall construction. It is truly gratifying to see tens of thousands of volunteers offer themselves in all aspects of Kingdom Hall construction. The success of this program is possible because of such a willing, generous, and cooperative spirit on the part of volunteer workers, who sacrifice time that could otherwise be well spent with their congregations and families. (Ps. 110:3; Col. 3:23) This loving response makes them worthy of our commendation, appreciation, and full support.—Rom. 12:10; Heb. 13:1.

want to help

[5] All who are qualified to assist Regional Building Committees on a regular basis have been asked to complete Kingdom Hall Volunteer Worker Questionnaire forms (S-82). The congregation sends these to the regional committee, indicating a worker's qualifications and availability. When there are adjustments in a volunteer's status, as when one moves or is appointed as a ministerial servant or an elder, new forms should be filled out promptly and submitted through the congregation secretary. If a volunteer no longer qualifies, the elders should immediately inform the regional committee by letter. When more forms are needed, they may be requested on the monthly Literature Request form. The circuit overseer too is interested in those who have volunteered for this field of sacred service. Therefore, he reviews the file containing the copies of the Kingdom Hall volunteer worker questionnaires each time he visits the congregation.

[6] **Keeping Construction Costs to a Minimum:** Regional Building Committees have been directed to organize a purchasing department under the supervision of a capable elder. Brothers working in this department pursue purchasing leads diligently in order to search out favorable prices through comparison shopping and competitive bidding. In this way, a determination can be made as to which suppliers should be used and which materials should be purchased. Sometimes, during the work on a Kingdom Hall project, qualified brothers in the local congregation are invited to assist in this department.

[7] To ensure that funds will be used as economically as possible, the Regional Building Committee must approve all expenditures from the building fund, either by countersigning checks or by initialing vouchers. Whenever a Kingdom Hall project, whether new construction or renovation, involves using volunteer help from congregations other than the one(s) that will meet in the hall, the regional committee has oversight of the project. ?

money

Does

[8] Anyone who contracts to do some of the work on a Kingdom Hall should be required to provide proof of workmen's compensation insurance and liability insurance coverage with necessary minimums met, naming the congregation as an additional insured, as well as lien waivers.

[9] **Assisting With the Need in Other Branches:** There are occasions when other branches need assistance from regional committees in the United States. Such help is often necessary to repair the damage after some disaster or to provide training for a local Regional Building Committee. It is a real expression of love when responsible brothers from this country are willing to travel at their own expense to assist in another country. When a request by a branch office is approved, How the Society selects a regional committee that may have a slack period in the Kingdom Hall construction schedule within its own region to serve in this way. This makes for an orderly arrangement.

[10] Because of the ever-increasing need for Kingdom Halls in other lands, there is a need to use existing funds as wisely as possible. In the June 15, 1995, letter to all congregations in the United States, we were encouraged to economize as much as possible in the construction of new Kingdom Halls and in the remodeling of existing ones. This request has been met with fine cooperation. Thus, as announced in the March 1997 issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry,* a portion of the Society ? Kingdom Hall Fund is now being used to provide loans to congregations in lands where a very urgent need exists for more Kingdom Halls but where there are limited resources and severe economic problems.

[11] The need for more Kingdom Halls in certain lands is emphasized in the *1997 Yearbook.* For example, mention is made of Ukraine, where 47 Kingdom Halls have been built thus far and construction of another 56 is under way. The need in such countries is very evident. The report states: "Many more Kingdom Halls are needed in Russia. The increase in the number of Witnesses there is very rapid, but about 85 percent of the congregations under the Russia branch do not have permanent meeting places. In Zimbabwe, where there are some 800 congregations, it has been necessary for many of these to meet out in the open. This has caused some newly interested ones to hold back from attending." Similar situations exist in other countries in Eastern Europe, Africa, and Latin America.

[12] Although the love of the greater number of mankind has cooled off in these last days, God's people continue to show evidence of their love for one another, a love that reaches beyond racial and territorial boundaries. (Matt. 24:12) In imitation of our heavenly Father, may we continue to show such love through our willing support of Kingdom Hall construction, both in the United States and abroad. Our doing so will bring Jehovah's rich blessing and approval.—Mal. 3:10; Heb. 6:10. God not forget

Can't go to GB - So Can't help.

What is **International Kingdom Hall Construction** ?

[1] There is an ongoing need for Kingdom Hall construction worldwide. During just the last service year, 3,288 new congregations were formed. Many of these congregations are in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, and Eastern Europe. we ?

[2] Previous issues of *Our Kingdom Ministry* have reported on the progress of Kingdom Hall construction in a number of lands. Still, reports show that one country with 568 congregations has just one Kingdom Hall. Another country has one Kingdom Hall for every 129 congregations. Another has a ratio of one for 41 congregations. Several other countries, with a total of over 1,000 congregations, have not yet been able to construct even one Kingdom Hall. This is because of economic problems. While much work has been done, there continues to be a need. We feel sure that the congregations in the United States would like to assist many of these congregations in other countries to have suitable Kingdom Halls.

[3] This is in harmony with 2 Corinthians 8:14, which says: "By means of an equalizing your surplus just now might offset their deficiency." Many countries have their own Kingdom Hall Fund, but their economic situation does not permit the local brothers to carry the load of building Kingdom Halls as needed. However, with help from brothers in other lands, the Society has been able to help build 413 new Kingdom Halls and remodel 727 others in just a four-month period in 75 different countries. In view of the continuing demand, there is a need to draw on the Kingdom Hall Fund in this country to assist with construction in other countries. While the funds in the United States will continue to provide loans for needed Kingdom Hall construction in this country, to the degree that these needs are being met and as funds are available, they will also be used to assist congregations outside the United States. We rejoice to see more Kingdom Halls built worldwide to Jehovah's praise.—Ps. 102:16; Hag. 1:7, 8.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

Closed-book review on material covered in Theocratic Ministry School assignments for the weeks of May 5 to August 18, 1997. Use a separate sheet of paper to write down answers to as many of the questions as you can in the time allotted.

[Note: During the written review, only the Bible may be used to answer any question. References that follow the questions are for your personal research. Page and paragraph numbers may not appear on all references to *The Watchtower*.]

Answer each of the following statements True or False:

1. Hezekiah followed in the footsteps of his father, Ahaz, by promoting the worship of false gods in Judah. [*it*-1 p. 1103]
2. Features of the last days are found only in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21. [*kl* p. 102 box]
3. John the Baptizer's question found at Luke 7:19 reveals that he lacked faith. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*87 1/1 p. 16.]
4. At Jesus' last Passover with his disciples, it was only Peter who said to him: "I will by no means disown you." [Weekly Bible reading]
5. There is no Biblical evidence indicating that the apostle Peter was a married man. [Weekly Bible reading]
6. The Kingdom that Jesus preached about is subsidiary, or secondary, to God's universal sovereignty. [*kl* p. 91 par. 4]
7. Herod Antipas was the ruler who ordered the beheading of John the Baptizer. [*it*-1 p. 1095]
8. When Jesus told the Pharisees that the Kingdom of God was in their midst, he was referring to himself as the future King. (Luke 17:21) [*kl* p. 91 par. 6]
9. There is no reasonable explanation as to why the book of Luke contains a vocabulary that is larger than the three other Gospels combined. [*si* p. 187 par. 2]
10. No members of the Governing Body were able to visit Eastern European lands while our work was under ban in that part of the world. [*jv* p. 506 par. 1]

Answer the following questions:

11. What film released by the Society in 1954 gave audiences worldwide a glimpse of the magnitude of Jehovah's organization? [*jv* p. 480 par. 4]
NW Society in action
12. In what ways are some publishers meeting the challenge of finding people to speak with in the ministry? [*jv* p. 516 pars. 1-3] Phone - street - bu
13. Why did Jehovah instruct Elijah to "anoint Hazael as king over Syria"? (1 Ki. 19:15) [*it*-1 p. 1046]
14. What did Jesus mean when he said: "Have salt in yourselves, and keep peace between one another"? (Mark 9:50) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*85 5/15 p. 24 par. 12.] be amiably
15. What valuable lesson may we learn from Jesus' reaction to the poor widow's contribution? (Mark 12:42-44) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*87 12/1 p. 29 par. 7–p. 30 par. 1.] attitude b
giving
16. How are some of Peter's characteristics seen in Mark's style of writing, and what may account for this? [*si* p. 182 pars. 5-6] mark - served wi
Peter in missionary trips
17. When we compare Matthew 6:9, 10 and Luke 11:2-4, why may we conclude that the model prayer was not meant to be repeated word for word? [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*90 5/15 p. 16 par. 6.] not same
18. In what way is our confidence in the reliability of the Bible strengthened when we read texts such as Luke 3:1, 2? [*si* p. 188 par. 7] events ar
Well documented

19. What scriptures in Psalms and in Hebrews show that Jesus did not begin to rule immediately after ascending to heaven? [*kl* p. 96 par. 15]

20. Since we know that Jesus never lacked faith in God, why did he cry out: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*87 6/15 p. 31.]
difficult

Provide the word(s) or phrase needed to complete each of the following statements:

21. The marriage of Herod Antipas and Herodias was both Unscriptural and wrong under Jewish law. [*it*-1 p. 1100]

22. Moses asked his brother-in-law, Hobab, to act as a ~~chief~~ scout for the nation of Israel during their move from the region of Mount Sinai toward the desert. [*it*-1 p. 1126]

23. Hiram, king of Tyre, assisted Solomon in building the temple at Jerusalem by providing cedar and juniper trees [*it*-1 p. 1121] for materials

24. Harold King and Stanley Jones were sent to China in 1947, making it one of the first countries of the Orient to which Gilead-trained missionaries were sent. [*jv* p. 489 par. 2]

25. *Sibia* and *Light* were names of boats used by missionaries for witnessing in the West Indies. [*jv* p. 463 par. 1]

Select the correct answer in each of the following statements:

26. To meet the need for missionaries, (the Theocratic Ministry; the Kingdom Ministry; Gilead) School was established in (1939; 1943; 1946). [*jv* p. 458 par. 2]

27. (Alexander; Diotrephes; Hymenaeus), a first-century apostate, evidently taught that the resurrection was symbolic and that there would be no resurrection of the dead in the future. [*it*-1 p. 1164]

28. The slaughter of boys under two years of age shortly after Jesus' birth was ordered by (Herod Agrippa I; Herod Antipas; Herod the Great). [*it*-1 p. 1093]

29. Ishmael's poking fun at Isaac, mentioned at Genesis 21:8, 9, marks the beginning of a period of (400; 430; 450) years of affliction of the Jews, which ended with Israel's deliverance from (Assyria; Babylon; Egypt) in (537; 740; 1513) B.C.E. [*it*-1 p. 1216]

30. As recorded in (Matthew 10; Matthew 24; Luke 21), Jesus gave specific service instructions to those he sent out to preach. [*si* p. 180 par. 31]

Match the following scriptures to the statements listed below:

Mark 7:20-23; 13:10; Luke 8:31; Acts 12:20-23; 17:11

mark 7:20-

31. We should be alert to identify any ungodly or corrupting influence that may come into our mind and heart and should remove it before it takes root. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*89 11/1 p. 14 par. 16.]

Lu 8:3

32. The demons will join Satan in deathlike inactivity during "the thousand years." (Rev. 20:3) [Weekly Bible reading]

33. A spirit of urgency is needed in order for the worldwide witness work to be accomplished in a limited time. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*95 10/1 p. 27.]

acts 17:11

34. Tens of thousands of people have been taught to read and write by Jehovah's Witnesses, giving people the opportunity to study the Bible personally. [*jv* p. 466 pars. 3-4]

acts 12:20-

35. Men should be careful about taking credit to themselves because conceit is very distasteful to God, as it is also to many humans. [*it*-1 p. 1097; see also w94 9/1 p. 21.]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures: *Does God Really Care About Us?*, *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *Should You Believe in the Trinity?*, *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*, *What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?*, and *When Someone You Love Dies*. **September:** *The Secret of Family Happiness*. **October:** Individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. Starting in the latter part of the month, *Kingdom News* No. 35 will be distributed. **November:** Distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 35 will continue. Congregations that complete their territory by reaching householders in each home or dwelling with a copy of *Kingdom News* No. 35 may offer the *Knowledge* book.

MAY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	171	126.2	98.2	52.5	4.5
Pios.	68,308	79.2	49.6	25.2	2.0
Aux. Pios.	56,905	57.3	38.0	14.4	1.0
Pubs.	806,863	9.8	7.5	3.6	0.3
TOTAL	932,247		Baptized: 4,120		

- In every community at various times during the year, there are worldly holidays that excuse children from school and give time off from secular work. These make excellent opportunities for the congregation to have an increased share in the field ministry. The elders should anticipate when these occasions will arise and notify the congregation well in advance of the arrangements that are being made for group witnessing during holiday periods.
- An adequate supply of forms for use during the 1998 service year is being sent to each congregation. Please use these forms with good discretion. They should be used only for their intended purpose.
- Each congregation will receive three Literature Inventory forms (S(d)-18). The congregation secretary should meet with the literature servant early in August and set a date for taking inventory of the congregation's stock of literature at the end of the month. An actual count must be made of all literature in stock, and the totals are to be entered on the Literature Inventory form. The total number of magazines on hand can be obtained from the magazine servant. *Please mail the original to the Society no later than September 6.* Keep a carbon copy for your files. The third copy may be used as a work sheet. The inventory should be supervised by the secretary, and the completed form should be checked by the presiding overseer. The secretary and the presiding overseer will sign the form.
- Congregations should begin requesting the *1998 Calendar of Jehovah's Witnesses* with their September literature request. The calendars will be available in Albanian, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, and Ukrainian.
- From August 28, 1997, to August 30, 1997, the Society will be taking an inventory of all literature on hand in Brooklyn. Because of this inventory, no congregation literature requests will be processed for shipment or for pickup during those days.

New Special Assembly Day Program

"Do All Things for the Sake of the Good News" is the theme of the new special assembly day program starting in September. (1 Cor. 9:23) The Kingdom good news is the most important news heard today. The program will help us appreciate the unique privilege we have to be bearers of this wonderful news. It will also embolden us to keep declaring the good news without letup. —Acts 5:42.

The program will show us how to utilize our theocratic training fully so that we can accomplish the most in the ministry. We will hear from some who have made adjustments to expand their service, including young people who are giving their all to further the good news. —Compare Philippians 2:22.

The principal talk, to be delivered by a guest speaker, will emphasize the need for us to remain "fit to be entrusted with the good news." (1 Thess. 2:4) We will be helped to see that if we are to retain the privilege of sharing the good news with others, we must continually measure up to God's requirements and standards in our thinking and conduct. The blessings that we receive from doing this will also be highlighted.

Do not miss this vital program. Newly dedicated ones who wish to get baptized at the special assembly day should inform the presiding overseer immediately. Invite all with whom you study to attend. Let us allow Jehovah to fortify us to do all things for the sake of the good news and thus complete the greatest work this side of Armageddon.

Rely on Jehovah to Make Things Grow

[1] "I experienced for the first time the unique joy of helping to establish a new congregation. This took more than two years of diligent work, constant prayers and reliance on Jehovah who 'makes things grow.'" So wrote a conscientious pioneer who learned the need to rely on Jehovah for growth. (1 Cor. 3:5-9) In our search for spiritually inclined people, we too have need of God's backing if our ministry is to bear fruit.—Prov. 3:5, 6.

[2] **Growth Requires Cultivation:** The seed of truth needs to be cultivated if it is to grow. Calling again within a day or two of the initial visit often produces good results. Be warm and friendly. Put the other person at ease. Do not do all the talking. Allow him to get to know you, and show that you are interested in him as a person.

[3] During July and continuing through August, we are concentrating on offering a variety of brochures to the people we meet. However, we also need to follow through on the interest that is found and on the placements that are made. We do this by making return visits and offering Bible studies. (Matt. 28:19, 20) To this end, the *Require* brochure may be used to start studies. You may find the following four suggestions helpful.

[4] ***If you talked with someone who was concerned about the way the world is headed, you might renew the conversation by saying:***

■ "I believe that you are as concerned as I am about the moral breakdown in human society. We hear distressing reports of domestic violence, resulting in abuse to children, parents, and marriage mates. And it seems that many people think nothing of lying or stealing to satisfy their own desires. Do you think it matters to God how people live their lives? [Allow for response.] God established certain standards for man to live by, and they are really not burdensome to us." Read 1 John 5:3. Then present the *Require* brochure, and open it to lesson 10. Read the first paragraph. Point out the italicized words and phrases at the beginning of paragraphs 2-6, and ask the householder which practice he or she feels is the most harmful to society. Read the related paragraph and look up one or two of the scriptures as opportunity allows. Conclude by reading paragraph 7, and then make arrangements to call back for a further discussion.

[5] ***To those whom you have met that are family oriented, you could say something like this:***

■ "Do you think it is reasonable to expect that the Creator would give us the tools we need to build a successful family life?" Allow for response. Introduce the *Require* brochure, turn to lesson 8, and explain that it contains principles from the Bible for every member of the family. Offer to demonstrate how to use the brochure with the Bible to get the greatest benefit from it. Follow the instructions that are found on page 2 of the brochure. Make arrangements to call back to continue the study of the lesson, or if you complete it, to study another lesson that the householder chooses in the brochure.

[6] ***Here is a direct approach you might use to offer our Bible study program. Show the "Require" brochure, and say:***

■ "This brochure contains a well-rounded-out study course covering the basic teachings of the Bible. On each page, you will find answers to questions that have troubled people for centuries. For example, What is God's purpose for the earth?" Turn to lesson 5, and read the questions at the start of the lesson. Ask the householder which one interests him the most, and then read the corresponding paragraph(s), looking up appropriate scriptures. Explain that the satisfying answers to the other questions can be found just as easily as this one. Suggest that you return again to discuss another question and answer.

[7] ***Or you might prefer to try a simplified approach for starting a Bible study by saying:***

■ "Did you know that by taking just a few minutes, you can find the answer to an important Bible question? For example, . . ." Then state a question that appears at the beginning of one of the lessons in the brochure, one that you think would appeal to the individual. For some ideas of questions that you might use, see paragraphs 15 and 16 in the March 1997 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, entitled: "Muster Up Boldness to Make Return Visits."

[8] Joyfully accepting the challenge of making return visits and conducting Bible studies is part of being God's "fellow workers." (1 Cor. 3:9) As we work hard to cultivate the interest we find and then rely on Jehovah to make things grow, we will experience the real satisfaction that no other work can produce.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

September 1997 For United States of America Vol. 40, No. 9

Set the More Important Things First

[1] What are some important things that are vital to our spiritual well-being? These would surely include personal study, meeting attendance, persistent prayer, good association, and the Christian ministry. We cannot maintain good spiritual health without keeping important things foremost in our lives.

[2] However, all of us have a battle against fleshly desires and have a need for discipline. (Gal. 5:17) Never should we feel that there is more to be gained by pursuing selfish interests. (Jer. 17:9) Therefore, if we are to safeguard our heart and avoid being misled, regular self-examination is crucial.—Prov. 4:23; 2 Cor. 13:5.

[3] **Examine Your Own Heart:** You can do this by asking yourself some candid questions: Do I long to read God's Word? (1 Pet. 2:2) Do I appreciate the importance of attending all the congregation meetings? (Heb. 10:24, 25) Do I persevere in prayer? (Rom. 12:12) Do I seek the company of spiritually minded people? (Rom. 1:11, 12) Do I feel a personal obligation to declare the good news? (1 Cor. 9:16) Positive answers will show that you are desirous of putting the more important things first.

[4] **Examine Your Daily Routine:** You need to follow up the examination of your heart's desires by establishing priorities for the use of time. This includes scheduling time for regularly reading the Bible and every issue of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!,* as well as for preparing for the meetings. Time must also be set aside for the family both to study and to pray together. Set a limit on how much time is spent in front of the TV or the computer. Be determined to attend all congregation meetings, and arrange everything else around them. Plan for the whole family to share in the field service each week.

[5] Without a doubt, setting the more important things first in our life will prove to be a cause for joy.

Bible Studies That Produce Disciples

[1] "What prevents me from getting baptized?" asked the Ethiopian eunuch after Philip "declared to him the good news about Jesus." (Acts 8:27-39) In the eunuch's case, he already had a love for God's inspired writings, and after receiving spiritual help from Philip, he was ready to become a disciple. But not all people are convinced that they need to examine the Scriptures for themselves.

[2] Thankfully, Jehovah's organization has provided the new brochure, *A Book for All People,* to encourage people to examine the Bible's message for our day. The information in the brochure should be appealing to sincere people who may be educated but who know little about the Bible. This fine instrument is designed to move people to want to look into the Bible.

[3] When starting a Bible study, it would be helpful to review the excellent suggestions published in the June 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert on how a productive study can be conducted in the *Knowledge* book. During the course of the study, consider the progress being made by the student so that you can determine which areas need further attention. Encourage the student to prepare his lessons in advance, looking up the scriptures. Comments made in his own words may reflect his heartfelt appreciation for the truth. Rapid progress is usually made by those who do additional reading of the Society's publications and regularly attend congregation meetings. Encourage him to speak informally to others about what he is learning. Kindly show him what he needs to do to make spiritual progress. We should not conduct studies indefinitely with indecisive ones. Students ought to take the initiative to learn, take a firm stand for the truth, and advance toward dedication and baptism.

[4] In some households, more than one study is being conducted, as different members of the family have separate studies. However, having a united family study may be preferable in most cases, since it would help draw the family together spiritually.

[5] Jesus' command is that we go make disciples. (Matt. 28:19) To do so, we must conduct Bible studies that help the students to progress to the point that they may ask, "What prevents me from getting baptized?"

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

Week Starting September 1

Song 26

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

15 min: "Set the More Important Things First." Questions and answers. As time permits, comment on "Setting Proper Priorities" in the February 22, 1987, *Awake!,* pages 8-9.

20 min: "Sharing With Others *The Secret of Family Happiness."* A talk covering paragraphs 1 and 6-8. Demonstrate paragraphs 2-5. Stress thinking in terms of making disciples and reaching the goal of starting studies.

Song 107 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 8

Song 27

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: "Bible Studies That Produce Disciples." Talk.

15 min: Elder discusses "Motivate Students Toward Dedication and Baptism" (*km* 6/96 insert, pars. 20-2) with experienced publishers who conduct studies.

Song 109 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 15

Song 30

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Make Good Use of Videos. Review suggestions on use of Society's videos and relate local experiences that illustrate how to make greater use of the videos, both in our families and in our ministry.

20 min: Are You Using the *School* Brochure? An elder discusses the October 1, 1985, *Watchtower,* pages 30-1, with some parents and children. They relate their personal experiences using the *School* brochure.

Song 112 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 22

Song 32

8 min: Local announcements.

17 min: How to Start a Conversation. Much of our success in the ministry depends on our being able to engage other people in meaningful conversations. When we are able to say something that gets others to listen, we have overcome one of the biggest barriers we face in witnessing. Discuss with audience key points in the *School Guidebook,* study 16, paragraphs 11-14. Have publishers who are skilled and effective in starting conversations relate the opening words they use when speaking to such people as (1) a pedestrian on the street, (2) a passenger on a bus, (3) a clerk behind a counter, (4) a shopper in a parking lot, (5) a person on a park bench, and (6) someone being contacted in telephone witnessing.

20 min: Review Congregation's 1997 Service Year Report. Service overseer commends congregation for fine effort, especially during March, April, and May. Offers suggestions from body of elders and last circuit overseer's report to increase field service and Bible study activity. Outline some practical goals for the new service year, including starting and conducting Bible studies and auxiliary pioneering during months with five weekends—November, May, August.

Song 113 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 29

Song 37

15 min: Local announcements. Remind all to turn in field service reports. Mention that we will begin studying the *Family Happiness* book next week at the book study. In preparation for magazine work in October, discuss the need to *"Analyze* Your Territory," *"Acquaint* Yourself With the Magazines," *"Prepare* Your Opening Words," *"Adapt* to the Householder," and *"Assist* One Another," from the October 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 8.

15 min: What Should a Christian Do When Called for Jury Duty? A talk by an elder on the April 1, 1997, *Watchtower,* pages 27-9.

15 min: Glorify Your Ministry. Audience discussion of *Our Ministry* book, pages 81-3. Ask these questions to highlight the main points: (1) How are we benefited by following Jesus' example? (2) How important is our responsibility to preach? (3) What motives prompted us to dedicate our lives to Jehovah? (4) What kind of conduct is required if a person is to serve God? (5) What can we learn from the way Jesus preached?

Song 121 and concluding prayer.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.*

September 1:	**Chapters 125-126**
September 8:	**Chapters 127-128**
September 15:	**Chapters 129-130**
September 22:	**Chapters 131-132**
September 29:	**Chapter 133 and review of book**

JUNE SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**162**	**119.0**	**94.2**	**50.3**	**4.3**
Pios.	**66,373**	**72.9**	**45.8**	**23.3**	**1.9**
Aux. Pios.	**24,351**	**57.7**	**36.9**	**14.1**	**1.0**
Pubs.	**813,139**	**9.5**	**7.2**	**3.5**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**904,025**				Baptized: **5,983**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **September:** *The Secret of Family Happiness.* **October:** Individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. Starting in the latter part of the month, *Kingdom News* No. 35 will be distributed. **November:** Distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 35 will continue. Congregations that complete their territory by reaching householders in each home or dwelling with a copy of *Kingdom News* No. 35 may offer the *Knowledge* book. **December:** *New World Translation* with the book *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?*

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on September 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. Make an announcement to the congregation when this has been done.

■ U.S. Selective Service regulations require that all men register at the post office when reaching 18 years of age. All those required to do so should take care of the matter promptly, viewing it as a Christian's obligation to the superior authorities. Elders will want to have this in mind and give appropriate reminders to young brothers nearing the age of 18. Questions as to the young Christian's responsibilities in this regard may be answered by the elders.

■ The elders are reminded to follow through on instructions given on pages 21-3 of the April 15, 1991, *Watchtower,* regarding any disfellowshipped or disassociated persons who may be inclined toward becoming reinstated.

■ It is important that groups of 30 or more persons planning to visit the Society's facilities first correspond by mail with the Central Tour Desk at 100 Watchtower Drive, Patterson, NY 12563-9204. The Central Tour Desk will care for groups that will be visiting Brooklyn Bethel, Watchtower Farms at Wallkill, the Watchtower Educational Center at Patterson, or the Jersey City Assembly Hall. Please provide information on the number coming and the dates and times for visiting each location. The Society will provide a description of the tours that are available as well as a map giving directions to each location. LODGING INFORMATION HAS BEEN SENT TO THE CONGREGATION ELDERS AND MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CONGREGATION SECRETARY.

■ Those associated with a congregation should send all new and renewal subscriptions for *The Watchtower* and *Awake!,* including their personal subscriptions, through the congregation.

■ The Society does not fill individual publishers' requests for literature. The presiding overseer should arrange for an announcement to be made *each month* before the congregation monthly request for literature is sent to the Society so that all interested in obtaining personal literature items may advise the brother handling literature. Please keep in mind which publications are special-request items.

■ Congregations may now begin submitting requests for *The Secret of Family Happiness —On Videocassette* (Volumes 1 through 6) in American Sign Language. They will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists until the videocassettes are available. Efforts will be made to ship each videocassette in time for the material contained in it to be considered at the Congregation Book Study. These videocassettes should be requested only for those familiar with American Sign Language.

■ When making literature requests, congregations should keep in mind that the Society's CD-ROM is not to be distributed indiscriminately. It is primarily for the use of publishers.

■ The May 1997 *Our Kingdom Ministry* "Question Box" recommended that we be cautious about working in the ministry with publishers of the opposite sex. There are good reasons for all to use good judgment in this matter. This does not mean that traveling overseers or even other brothers cannot work in the field ministry with sisters. Rather, the thought was expressed that it is not wise for a brother to be spending time *regularly* alone with the *same person* of the opposite sex to whom he is not related.

■ New Publications Available:

A Book for All People —Chinese, Chinese Simplified, English, French, Greek, Italian, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese
Enjoy Family Life (Tract No. 21) —Lithuanian
Enjoy Life on Earth Forever! —Tibetan
Hellfire—Is It Part of Divine Justice? (Tract No. 74) —Arabic
How to Start and Continue Bible Discussions —Gujarati
Jehovah's Witnesses in the Twentieth Century —Vietnamese
Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life —Bulgarian, Myanmar
Should You Believe in the Trinity? —Persian
The Bible—God's Word or Man's? —Slovak
The Divine Name That Will Endure Forever —Arabic
The Secret of Family Happiness —Turkish, Urdu
Watch Tower Publications Index 1996 —English

Sharing With Others *The Secret of Family Happiness*

1 The family is the basic unit of human society, and from the family come villages, cities, states, and whole nations. Today the family unit is under pressure as never before. Powerful forces are at work threatening the very existence of family life. How thankful we are that Jehovah, the Designer of the family arrangement, has provided us with instructions so that we can achieve family happiness! Those who follow his guidelines find that problems are minimized and a successful family unit results. During September we have the privilege of sharing with others the book *The Secret of Family Happiness.* Take the initiative to approach people on the subject of family life. Be friendly, positive, and discerning. What might you say?

2 ***You could begin by raising a question such as:***

■ "Have you noticed that many families are finding it difficult to endure the pressures of life? [Allow for response.] Reports indicate that many people experience difficulties in the home. What do you believe would help families to find greater stability and happiness? [Allow for response.] Since God instituted the family arrangement, would it not be reasonable to examine the guidelines that he has given? [Read 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.] Such beneficial instruction is outlined in this book, *The Secret of Family Happiness.*" Then ask the individual what he feels is a common family problem, show the chapter that discusses that problem, and offer the book.

3 ***On the return visit, you might pursue the goal of starting a Bible study by saying:***

■ "I have thought about what you said on the subject of family life, and I brought you something that I think you will enjoy. [Show the *Require* brochure, turn to page 16, and read the six questions at the top.] Obviously, each one in the family must do his part to contribute toward family happiness. If you have just a few minutes, I will demonstrate how you can get the most benefit from this information." Then begin studying lesson 8.

Taylor

4 ***Another way to start a discussion is to mention a problem, perhaps by saying:***

■ "Although everyone wants to feel a sense of contentment and satisfaction, it seems many families have not really succeeded in this. What do you think would help them to find true happiness? [Allow for response.] Long ago, the Bible revealed what sort of problems we would see in families today. [Read 2 Timothy 3:1-3.] However, the Bible also tells families what to do to resolve these problems and to obtain lasting happiness. Its principles are set out in this book, *The Secret of Family Happiness.*" Then show the review box at the end of an appropriate chapter, read it, and offer the book.

5 ***When you return, use the "Require" brochure to start a study. You could say:***

■ "I was impressed with your willingness to examine the Bible's principles that apply to family life. Experience has shown that the best results are achieved by following the practical counsel found in the Bible. Here is a simple explanation of why that is so." Read the first paragraph of lesson 1 in the *Require* brochure, including either Psalm 1:1-3 or Isaiah 48:17, 18. If the opportunity allows, consider the remainder of the lesson. Offer to return to study the next lesson together.

6 **About Our Literature:** Knowing that all our literature is valuable and that publishing it costs money, do you ever hesitate to offer magazines, brochures, or books to the people you meet? How can we be sure that we are not giving literature away to unappreciative people? One way is to ask the person if he will promise to read the item that you are presenting.

7 ***When offering a "Family Happiness" book, for example, you might say this:***

■ "If you promise to read this book, I will leave it with you at no charge. [Allow for response.] You may wonder how we can afford to do this. It is because our work is supported by voluntary donations. If you would like to make a small donation toward our work, I will gladly accept it." One brother was getting little response until he made two changes. First, he added a word, saying: "If you would like to make a small donation *today* toward our work, I will gladly accept it." Next, he *paused* long enough to allow the householder to respond. He then felt more confident that the literature was appreciated and that it would be read.

8 Let us put forth every effort we can to share with others the secret that leads to family happiness—following the instructions set forth in God's Word. —Ps. 19:7-10.

SAT. 9A

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

October 1997 For United States of America Vol. 40, No. 10

"Will All People Ever Love One Another?"

¹ A beautiful, stirring, and heartwarming message is to be proclaimed worldwide in 169 languages. What is this message? And how will it be delivered?

² The message is about neighbor love. It is to be found in *Kingdom News* No. 35, entitled "Will All People Ever Love One Another?" This *Kingdom News* briefly examines the present state of affairs throughout the world, showing that it is the lack of love among people that is the root cause of so much heartache and pain. It explains why, in our day particularly, neighbor love has cooled off and what this means for the future.

³ At the same time, *Kingdom News* No. 35 shows that true neighbor love exists among millions living in today's world. It identifies those who are sharing in the revival of primitive Christianity—first-century worship, which was marked by love of neighbor as taught by Jesus Christ.—Luke 10:25-37.

⁴ *Kingdom News* No. 35 concludes with an explanation of how the entire world of mankind will soon be practicing neighbor love under the administration of God's Kingdom by Christ. Those reading this message are encouraged to obtain the brochure *What Does God Require of Us?* and learn how to become a part of this earth-wide loving arrangement that is described in detail in God's Word.

⁵ **Who Will Deliver This Message?** Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide will be sharing this message of neighbor love with their acquaintances, neighbors, and relatives during the months of October and November. All who qualify are encouraged to share in the public distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 35.

⁶ The ultimate goal of this campaign is to stimulate people's interest in having a Bible study in either the *Require* brochure or the *Knowledge* book. Additionally, a wholehearted effort on the part of each one of Jehovah's servants will produce a grand witness to the God of love, Jehovah, and to his Son, Jesus Christ.

How Do You React to Apathy?

¹ Apathy is a lack of feeling or emotion, an absence of interest or concern. It is one of the more common and more difficult attitudes we encounter in the ministry. How do you react to it? Has it caused you to slow down in your ministry? How can you overcome it so as to reach people with the Kingdom message?

² First, determine why the people in your territory are apathetic. Is it because they are disappointed with their political and religious leaders? Do they feel that there is no way out of the problems facing them? Are they skeptical about promises of something better? Are they unwilling to think about spiritual matters unless they can see immediate tangible benefits?

³ **Highlight the Kingdom Hope:** There is no problem that the Kingdom will not solve. So when we can do so, we should speak about Kingdom promises, referring to key Scriptural statements, even if it is not possible or practical to show a Bible text. (Heb. 4:12) However, how can we get the conversation to that point?

⁴ People need to understand the purpose of our call. They need to realize that we are there out of love of neighbor and concern for the community. We could ask a well-thought-out question such as, "What do you think is the solution to [a problem affecting the community]?" If one approach does not work, try another.

⁵ In one very affluent territory where householders were indifferent to the Kingdom message, publishers endeavored to find an introduction that would arouse interest. When featuring the *Knowledge* book, one couple tried this introduction: "Do you feel that a good education is important for success in the world today? Do you agree that a well-rounded education would include knowledge of the Bible?" In one afternoon they placed three books, one of which was with a woman who later said she had read the entire *Knowledge* book and agreed to a Bible study.

⁶ When you encounter apathy, try different approaches, ask thought-provoking questions, and draw upon the power of God's Word. You may thus be able to help others embrace our marvelous Kingdom hope.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR OCTOBER

Week Starting October 6

Song 39

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

15 min: "Will All People Ever Love One Another?" Questions and answers. Review highlights of *Kingdom News* No. 35. Point out reasons why people in the territory will benefit from this material. Stress the need to make plans now to share fully in its distribution and to be diligent in following up all the interest found.

20 min: "Give *Kingdom News* No. 35 Wide Distribution." Opening talk by service overseer. Cover paragraphs 5-8 by questions and answers. Review local arrangements for expanded activity. Discuss ways to make sure all territory is covered. *Kingdom News* No. 35 can be used by publishers when witnessing to people at bus stops, in small businesses, in parking lots, and elsewhere. Offer suggestions on how to assist new ones who want to get started in the preaching work. Include information from the April 1995 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, paragraph 11. In some territories it may be advantageous to work alone and not to carry a briefcase when distributing the *Kingdom News.* Demonstrate two or three brief presentations.

Song 126 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 13

Song 41

12 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Review talking points in current issues of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Remind all that during weekend activity, magazines will be featured along with *Kingdom News* No. 35. We should follow up all interest. Remind brothers to bring the brochure *A Book for All People* next week.

15 min: Local needs.

18 min: "How Do You React to Apathy?" Discussion between two elders. Include comments on material under the subhead "How You Can Attack Apathy" in the July 15, 1974, *Watchtower,* pages 445-6.

Song 130 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 20

Song 42

15 min: Local announcements. Review some experiences from the *1996 Yearbook,* pages 6-8, on "Global Distribution of *Kingdom News.*" Highlight the individual effort publishers put into the last *Kingdom News* distribution. Encourage all to share fully in distributing *Kingdom News* No. 35.

15 min: Highlights of New Brochure, *A Book for All People.* Audience discussion of the reasons why the Bible deserves our consideration. This brochure was prepared to help people who may be well educated but who know little about the Bible. Rather than try to convince them that the Bible is inspired by God, the brochure lets the facts speak for themselves. We should read it and share it with others, including those with whom we study.

15 min: "Are You a Full-Time Witness?" A talk by an elder.

Song 133 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 27

Song 43

12 min: Local announcements. Review progress of *Kingdom News* No. 35 distribution. Invite audience to relate encouraging experiences. Report on how much territory has been worked thus far and what will be needed to complete coverage by November 16. Once the territory is completely worked, we will offer the *Knowledge* book during the remainder of the month. Stress the goal of starting studies on return visits where there was good response to *Kingdom News.*

15 min: How to Find Hope Amid Despair. Talk by an elder based on May 15, 1997, *Watchtower,* pages 22-5.

18 min: Let Your Light Shine. Talk and discussion on *Our Ministry* book, pages 84-8. Arrange in advance to have publishers make specific comments on the following questions: (1) Why do Jehovah's Witnesses preach from house to house? (2) To what extent was this method used in the first century? (3) Why is there an urgent need to keep preaching from house to house today? (4) What circumstances may make it difficult for us to share regularly? (5) How can we get help in order to persevere? (6) How are we blessed by letting our light shine? (7) What can we do to be more successful in contacting people? Illustrate by having three or four publishers relate encouraging experiences enjoyed while working from store to store or doing street witnessing.

Song 136 and concluding prayer.

JULY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**158**	**118.5**	**86.8**	**51.9**	**4.4**
Pios.	**66,555**	**70.0**	**42.9**	**22.2**	**1.8**
Aux. Pios.	**24,179**	**59.2**	**35.4**	**13.4**	**0.9**
Pubs.	**841,188**	**9.8**	**7.4**	**3.5**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**932,080**			Baptized:	**7,512**

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THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR 1998

INSTRUCTIONS

During 1998 the following will be the arrangements when conducting the Theocratic Ministry School.

TEXTBOOKS: The *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* [*bi12*], *Jehovah's Witnesses—Proclaimers of God's Kingdom* [*jv*], *"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial"* (1990 Edition) [*si*], *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* [*kl*], *The Secret of Family Happiness* [*fy*], and *Insight on the Scriptures* Volumes 1 and 2 [*it*-1, *it*-2] will be the basis for assignments.

The school should begin ON TIME with song, prayer, and remarks of welcome and then proceed as follows:

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1: 15 minutes. This should be handled by an elder or a ministerial servant, and it will be based on *Jehovah's Witnesses—Proclaimers of God's Kingdom* or *"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial."* When based on the *Proclaimers* book, this assignment should be delivered as a 15-minute instruction talk with no oral review; when based on the *"All Scripture"* book, it should be delivered as a 10- to 12-minute instruction talk with a 3- to 5-minute oral review following, using the printed questions in the publication. The objective should be not just to cover the material but to focus attention on the *practical value* of the information being discussed, highlighting what will be most helpful to the congregation. The theme shown should be used. Illustrations, photographs, and charts found in the *Proclaimers* book may be commented on by the speaker and used as teaching aids.

The brothers assigned this talk should be careful to *keep within the time limit.* Private counsel may be given if necessary or if requested by the speaker.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BIBLE READING: 6 minutes. This should be handled by an elder or a ministerial servant who will effectively apply the material to local needs. This should not be just a summary of the assigned reading. A 30- to 60-second overall review of the assigned chapters may be included. The principal objective, however, is to help the audience to appreciate *why* and *how* the information is of value to us. The students will then be dismissed to their various classrooms by the school overseer.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 2: 5 minutes. This is a Bible reading of the assigned material to be given by a brother. This will apply in the main school as well as in the auxiliary groups. The reading assignments are usually short enough to permit the students to present brief explanatory information in the opening and concluding remarks. Historical background, prophetic or doctrinal significance, and application of principles may be included. *All* the assigned verses should be read without a break. Of course, when the verses to be read are not consecutive, the student may cite the verse where the reading continues.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 3: 5 minutes. This will be assigned to a sister. The subject for this presentation will be based on *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life, The Secret of Family Happiness,* or *Insight on the Scriptures,* Volume 2. (See Assignment No. 4 for information on how to develop the material based on a Bible character.) The setting may be an informal witness, a return visit, or a home Bible study, and the participants may be either seated or standing. The school overseer will be particularly interested in the way the student helps the householder to reason on and understand the material and in how the scriptures are applied. The student assigned this part should know how to read. One assistant will be scheduled by the school overseer, but an additional assistant may be used. The student may determine whether or not to have the householder read certain paragraphs when considering the *Knowledge* or *Family Happiness* books. Not the setting but the effective use of the material should be given prime consideration.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 4: 5 minutes. When this assignment is based on information dealing with a Bible character, it will be assigned to a brother or a sister. When it is based on the *Family Happiness* book, it will be assigned to a brother. For each assignment a theme is set forth in the schedule. When this assignment is based on a Bible character, information can be found in *Insight on the Scriptures,* Volume 1 or Volume 2, under his name. The student should study Scriptural references in the material in order to get a clear picture of the Bible character—the events of his life, as well as his personality, traits, and attitude. Thereafter, the student should develop the assigned theme of the talk and select appropriate scriptures to be used. Additional scriptures that highlight Bible principles that tie in with the theme may be included. The purpose of considering a Bible character is to show what can be learned from his example. Acts of faithfulness, courage, humility, and unselfishness furnish good examples to be followed; unfaithful acts as well as undesirable traits stand as strong warnings to turn Christians away from an improper course. When assigned to a brother, this talk should be given with the Kingdom Hall audience in mind. When a sister is given this part, it should be presented as outlined for Assignment No. 3.

*SUPPLEMENTAL BIBLE-READING SCHEDULE: This is set forth in brackets after the song number for each week. By following this schedule, reading about ten pages a week, the entire Bible can be read in three years. No parts on the school program or the written review are based on the supplemental reading schedule.

NOTE: For additional information and instruction regarding counsel, timing, written reviews, and the preparation of assignments, please see page 3 of the October 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

SCHEDULE

Jan. 5 Bible reading: Acts 7-8

Song No. 196 [*Genesis 1-9]

No. 1: Dedicated Brothers Print and Bind Books (*jv* p. 579 par. 4–p. 586 par. 4)

No. 2: Acts 7:44-60

No. 3: Always Obey the Supreme Authority (*kl* pp. 130-1 pars. 1-6)

No. 4: Jehoshaphat (No. 3)—Theme: Guard Against Bad Associations

Jan. 12 Bible reading: Acts 9-10

Song No. 53 [*Genesis 10-18]

No. 1: Expansion After World War II (*jv* p. 588 par. 1–p. 595 par. 5)

No. 2: Acts 9:1-16

No. 3: Be in Subjection to the Superior Authorities (*kl* pp. 131-3 pars. 7-10)

No. 4: Jehu (No. 3)—Theme: Zeal Can Be Marred by Permissiveness

Jan. 19 Bible reading: Acts 11-13

Song No. 162 [*Genesis 19-24]

No. 1: Computer Systems Help to Advance the Good News (*jv* p. 596 par. 1–p. 602 par. 3)

No. 2: Acts 13:1-12

No. 3: Appreciate God's Arrangement for Authority in the Family (*kl* pp. 134-6 pars. 11-18)

No. 4: Jephthah—Theme: Vows Are to Be Taken Seriously

Jan. 26 Bible reading: Acts 14-16

Song No. 180 [*Genesis 25-30]

No. 1: Zealous Publishers and Distributors of the Bible (*jv* p. 603 par. 1–p. 607 par. 4)

No. 2: Acts 16:1-15

No. 3: Authority in the Congregation—A Loving Provision From Jehovah (*kl* pp. 137-9 pars. 19-25)

No. 4: Jeremiah (No. 6)—Theme: Jehovah Gives Power Beyond What Is Normal

Feb. 2 Bible reading: Acts 17-19

Song No. 111 [*Genesis 31-36]

No. 1: Producing the *New World Translation* (*jv* p. 607 par. 5–p. 615 par. 5)

No. 2: Acts 18:1-11

No. 3: How Loyalty Contributes to a Happy Marriage (*kl* pp. 140-1 pars. 1-6)

No. 4: Jeroboam (No. 1)—Theme: Selfish Ambition Can Lead to Idolatry

Feb. 9 Bible reading: Acts 20-21

Song No. 38 [*Genesis 37-42]

No. 1: Testing and Sifting From Within (*jv* p. 618 par. 1–p. 623 par. 3)

No. 2: Acts 21:1-14

No. 3: The Vital Role of Communication in Marriage (*kl* pp. 142-3 pars. 7-9)

No. 4: Jeshua (No. 4)—Theme: Give Full Support to Pure Worship

Feb. 16 Bible reading: Acts 22-24

Song No. 8 [*Genesis 43-49]

No. 1: A Change of Administration Brings Tests (*jv* p. 623 par. 4–p. 629 par. 3)

No. 2: Acts 22:1-16

No. 3: Show Honor and Respect to Your Mate (*kl* pp. 143-4 pars. 10-14)

No. 4: Jesse—Theme: Be Cooperative and Have a Generous Spirit

Feb. 23 Bible reading: Acts 25-26

Song No. 179 [*Genesis 50–Exodus 7]

No. 1: Adjustments in Doctrinal Views and Expectations (*jv* p. 629 par. 4–p. 633 par. 4)

No. 2: Acts 25:1-12

No. 3: Set a Good Example and Show Your Children Love (*kl* pp. 145-6 pars. 15-18)

No. 4: Jethro—Theme: Do Not Be Too Proud to Listen to Suggestions

March 2 Bible reading: Acts 27-28

Song No. 92 [*Exodus 8-13]

No. 1: Acts—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 204-5 pars. 32-40)

No. 2: Acts 27:33-44

No. 3: What Loving Discipline and Skillful Direction Can Accomplish (*kl* pp. 148-9 pars. 19-23)

No. 4: Jezebel (No. 1)—Theme: The Wicked Will Not Escape Jehovah's Judgment

Mar. 9 Bible reading: Romans 1-3

Song No. 79 [*Exodus 14-20]

No. 1: Introduction to Romans (*si* pp. 205-6 pars. 1-7)

No. 2: Romans 1:18-32

No. 3: Why We Want to Draw Close to God (*kl* pp. 150-1 pars. 1-5)

No. 4: Joab (No. 2)—Theme: Vengeance Belongs to Jehovah

Mar. 16 Bible reading: Romans 4-6

Song No. 174 [*Exodus 21-27]

No. 1: Expectations, Reality, and Other Issues (*jv* p. 635 par. 1–p. 641 par. 3)

No. 2: Romans 4:1-15

No. 3: Requirements for Drawing Close to God (*kl* pp. 152-3 pars. 6-9)

No. 4: Joanna—Theme: Minister to God's Holy Ones Willingly

Mar. 23 Bible reading: Romans 7-9

Song No. 27 [*Exodus 28-33]

No. 1: "You Will Be Objects of Hatred by All the Nations" (*jv* p. 642 par. 1–p. 646 par. 4)

No. 2: Romans 9:1-18

No. 3: Talk to God and Be Heard by Him (*kl* pp. 153-5 pars. 10-14)

No. 4: Job—Theme: Unbreakable Integrity Brings Jehovah's Favor

Mar. 30 Bible reading: Romans 10-12

Song No. 70 [*Exodus 34-39]

No. 1: The Hypocrisy of Religious Leaders Exposed (*jv* p. 647 par. 1–p. 652 par. 1)

No. 2: Romans 10:1-15

No. 3: Persevere in Prayer and Listen (*kl* pp. 156-9 pars. 15-20)

No. 4: Jochebed—Theme: Trust in Jehovah and Do Your Very Best

Apr. 6 Bible reading: Romans 13-16

Song No. 175 [*Exodus 40–Leviticus 7]

No. 1: Romans—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 208-9 pars. 20-5)

No. 2: Romans 13:1-10

No. 3: Find True Security Among God's People (*kl* pp. 160-1 pars. 1-4)

No. 4: Johanan (No. 5)—Theme: Follow Jehovah's Advice

Apr. 13 Bible reading: 1 Corinthians 1-3

Song No. 173 [*Leviticus 8-13]

No. 1: Introduction to 1 Corinthians (*si* pp. 210-11 pars. 1-7)

No. 2: 1 Corinthians 1:10-25

No. 3: How Jehovah Provides Spiritual Food (*kl* pp. 161-3 pars. 5-8)

No. 4: John (No. 1)—Accomplish Your Ministry With Zeal

Apr. 20 Bible reading: 1 Corinthians 4-6

Song No. 56 [*Leviticus 14-19]

No. 1: Influence of the Clergy Becomes Evident (*jv* p. 652 par. 2–p. 659 par. 1)

No. 2: 1 Corinthians 4:1-13

No. 3: What It Means to Be Clothed With Love (*kl* pp. 163-6 pars. 9-14)

No. 4: John (No. 3)—Theme: Be Loyal to God and Love Your Brothers

Apr. 27 Written Review. Complete Acts 7–1 Corinthians 6

Song No. 91 [*Leviticus 20-25]

May 4 Bible reading: 1 Corinthians 7-9

Song No. 29 [*Leviticus 26–Numbers 3]

No. 1: The Clergy and Hitler Against Jehovah's Servants (*jv* p. 659 par. 2–p. 665 par. 1)
No. 2: 1 Corinthians 7:10-24
No. 3: The Congregation—A Place of Security (*kl* pp. 167-9 pars. 15-20)
No. 4: Jonah (No. 1)—Theme: Fulfill Your God-Given Responsibilities

May 11 Bible reading: 1 Corinthians 10-12

Song No. 103 [*Numbers 4-9]

No. 1: Worldwide Opposition to Giving Jehovah Exclusive Devotion (*jv* p. 666 par. 1–p. 673 par. 1)
No. 2: 1 Corinthians 11:1-16
No. 3: Imitate Jesus—Serve God Forever (*kl* pp. 170-1 pars. 1-6)
No. 4: Jonathan (No. 1)—Theme: Beware of Selfishness

May 18 Bible reading: 1 Corinthians 13-14

Song No. 160 [*Numbers 10-15]

No. 1: Hated for Being "No Part of the World" (*jv* p. 673 par. 2–p. 677 par. 3)
No. 2: 1 Corinthians 14:1-12
No. 3: Vital Steps That Lead to Life (*kl* pp. 173-5 pars. 7-9)
No. 4: Jonathan (No. 2)—Theme: A True Friend Is Unselfish and Loyal

May 25 Bible reading: 1 Corinthians 15-16

Song No. 158 [*Numbers 16-22]

No. 1: 1 Corinthians—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 213-14 pars. 23-6)
No. 2: 1 Corinthians 16:1-13
No. 3: Why Baptism Is Necessary (*kl* pp. 175-6 pars. 10-12)
No. 4: Joseph (No. 1)—Theme: Display the Qualities of a Spiritual Man

June 1 Bible reading: 2 Corinthians 1-4

Song No. 58 [*Numbers 23-29]

No. 1: Introduction to 2 Corinthians (*si* p. 214 pars. 1-4)
No. 2: 2 Corinthians 4:1-12
No. 3: Baptism—The Most Important Milestone in Your Life (*kl* p. 177 pars. 13-16)
No. 4: Joseph (No. 8)—Theme: Be Obedient and Righteous

June 8 Bible reading: 2 Corinthians 5-8

Song No. 193 [*Numbers 30-35]

No. 1: Defending and Legally Establishing the Good News (*jv* p. 678 par. 1–p. 683 par. 4)
No. 2: 2 Corinthians 7:1-13
No. 3: What It Means to Live Up to Your Dedication and Baptism (*kl* pp. 178-80 pars. 17-22)
No. 4: Joseph (No. 9)—Theme: Do Not Give Up on Relatives

June 15 Bible reading: 2 Corinthians 9-13

Song No. 43 [*Numbers 36–Deuteronomy 4]

No. 1: 2 Corinthians—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 216-17 pars. 18-20)
No. 2: 2 Corinthians 10:1-12
No. 3: Preparing Now for "the Real Life" (*kl* pp. 181-2 pars. 1-5)
No. 4: Joseph (No. 10)—Theme: Be Courageous and Overcome Fear

June 22 Bible reading: Galatians 1-3

Song No. 127 [*Deuteronomy 5-11]

No. 1: Introduction to Galatians (*si* pp. 217-18 pars. 1-6)
No. 2: Galatians 1:1-12
No. 3: After Armageddon—A Paradise Earth (*kl* pp. 182-4 pars. 6-11)
No. 4: Joshua (No. 1)—Theme: Never Doubt Jehovah's Promises

June 29 Bible reading: Galatians 4-6

Song No. 98 [*Deuteronomy 12-19]

No. 1: Galatians—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 219-20 pars. 14-18)
No. 2: Galatians 6:1-18
No. 3: Peace Everywhere and the Resurrection of the Dead (*kl* pp. 184-7 pars. 12-18)
No. 4: Josiah (No. 1)—Theme: Keep Clean From Idolatry

July 6 Bible reading: Ephesians 1-3

Song No. 71 [*Deuteronomy 20-27]

No. 1: Introduction to Ephesians (*si* pp. 220-1 pars. 1-8)
No. 2: Ephesians 1:1-14
No. 3: What Perfection Will Mean, and How We Can Enjoy It (*kl* pp. 187-91 pars. 19-25)
No. 4: Jotham (No. 3)—Theme: Learn From the Mistakes of Others

July 13 Bible reading: Ephesians 4-6

Song No. 214 [*Deuteronomy 28-32]

No. 1: Ephesians—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 222-3 pars. 16-19)
No. 2: Ephesians 6:1-13
No. 3: Judah (No. 1)—Theme: Qualities That Jehovah Blesses
No. 4: The Family Is in Crisis (*fy* pp. 1-9 pars. 1-14)

July 20 Bible reading: Philippians 1-4

Song No. 123 [*Deuteronomy 33–Joshua 6]

No. 1: Introduction to Philippians and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 223-4 pars. 1-7; p. 225 pars. 12-14)
No. 2: Philippians 1:1-14
No. 3: The Secret of Family Happiness (*fy* pp. 9-12 pars. 15-23)
No. 4: Judas (No. 4)—Theme: We Are Not Predestinated

July 27 Bible reading: Colossians 1-4

Song No. 64 [*Joshua 7-12]

No. 1: Introduction to Colossians and Why Beneficial (*si* p. 226 pars. 1-5; p. 228 pars. 12-14)
No. 2: Colossians 4:1-13
No. 3: Judas (No. 5; see also Jude)—Theme: People Can Change
No. 4: Are You Ready for Marriage? (*fy* pp. 13-15 pars. 1-6)

Aug. 3 Bible reading: 1 Thessalonians 1-5

Song No. 35 [*Joshua 13-19]

No. 1: Introduction to 1 Thessalonians and Why Beneficial (*si* p. 229 pars. 1-5; p. 231 pars. 13-15)
No. 2: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12
No. 3: Why You Should Know Yourself and Be Realistic (*fy* pp. 16-18 pars. 7-10)
No. 4: Jude—Theme: Be Modest—Do Not Seek Prominence

Aug. 10 Bible reading: 2 Thessalonians 1-3

Song No. 10 [*Joshua 20–Judges 1]

No. 1: Introduction to 2 Thessalonians and Why Beneficial (*si* p. 232 pars. 1-4; p. 233 pars. 10-11)
No. 2: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12
No. 3: Korah (No. 3)—Theme: Do Not Give Way to Envy
No. 4: What to Look for in a Mate (*fy* pp. 18-22 pars. 11-15)

Aug. 17 Bible reading: 1 Timothy 1-3

Song No. 221 [*Judges 2-7]

No. 1: Introduction to 1 Timothy (*si* p. 234 pars. 1-6)
No. 2: 1 Timothy 1:3-16
No. 3: Things to Consider Before Making a Lasting Commitment (*fy* pp. 22-3 pars. 16-19)
No. 4: Laban (No. 1)—Theme: Be Fair in Your Dealings With Others

Aug. 24 Bible reading: 1 Timothy 4-6

Song No. 30 [*Judges 8-13]

No. 1: 1 Timothy—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 236-7 pars. 15-19)
No. 2: 1 Timothy 4:1-16
No. 3: Lamech (No. 1)—Theme: Violence Begets Violence
No. 4: Keep Your Courtship Honorable, and Look Beyond the Wedding (*fy* pp. 24-6 pars. 20-3)

Aug. 31 Written Review. Complete 1 Corinthians 7–1 Timothy 6

Song No. 59 [*Judges 14-19]

Sept. 7 Bible reading: 2 Timothy 1-4

Song No. 46 [*Judges 20–Ruth 4]

No. 1: Introduction to 2 Timothy and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 237-8 pars. 1-4; pp. 238-9 pars. 10-12)
No. 2: 2 Timothy 3:1-13
No. 3: Bible Principles That Can Help You to Prepare for a Successful Marriage (*fy* p. 26 review box)
No. 4: Lazarus (No. 1)—Theme: Hospitality Leads to Blessings

Sept. 14 Bible reading: Titus 1–Philemon

Song No. 155 [*1 Samuel 1-8]

No. 1: Introduction to Titus and Philemon and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 239-41 pars. 1-4, 8-10; pp. 241-3 pars. 1-4, 7-10)
No. 2: Titus 3:1-14
No. 3: Leah—Theme: A Scriptural Viewpoint of Hate
No. 4: The First Key to a Lasting Marriage (*fy* pp. 27-9 pars. 1-6)

Sept. 21 Bible reading: Hebrews 1-3

Song No. 149 [*1 Samuel 9-14]

No. 1: Introduction to Hebrews (*si* pp. 243-4 pars. 1-9)
No. 2: Hebrews 3:1-15
No. 3: The Second Key to a Lasting Marriage (*fy* pp. 30-1 pars. 7-10)
No. 4: Levi (No. 1)—Theme: Violent Anger Brings Reproach

Sept. 28 Bible reading: Hebrews 4-7

Song No. 3 [*1 Samuel 15-19]

No. 1: Legal Battles for Freedom of Worship (*jv* p. 684 par. 1–p. 693 par. 1)
No. 2: Hebrews 6:1-12
No. 3: Lois—Theme: Share Your Faith With Family Members
No. 4: Man's Headship Should Be Christlike (*fy* pp. 31-3 pars. 11-15)

Oct. 5 Bible reading: Hebrews 8-10

Song No. 209 [*1 Samuel 20-25]

No. 1: Serving Jehovah Fearlessly and Unitedly Despite Opposition (*jv* p. 693 par. 2–p. 699 par. 4)
No. 2: Hebrews 8:1-12
No. 3: How a Wife Is to Complement Her Husband (*fy* pp. 34-5 pars. 16-19)
No. 4: Lot, II—Theme: In the World but No Part of It

Oct. 12 Bible reading: Hebrews 11-13

Song No. 108 [*1 Samuel 26–2 Samuel 2]

No. 1: Hebrews—Why Beneficial (*si* p. 247 pars. 23-7)
No. 2: Hebrews 11:1-10
No. 3: Luke—Theme: Be a Faithful Fellow Worker
No. 4: What Good Communication Really Means (*fy* pp. 35-8 pars. 20-6)

Oct. 19 Bible reading: James 1-5

Song No. 144 [*2 Samuel 3-10]

No. 1: Introduction to James and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 248-9 pars. 1-7; p. 250 pars. 15-17)
No. 2: James 5:1-12
No. 3: Bible Principles That Can Help You to Enjoy a Lasting, Happy Marriage (*fy* p. 38 review box)
No. 4: Lydia—Theme: Genuine Hospitality Is Appreciated

Oct. 26 Bible reading: 1 Peter 1-5

Song No. 54 [*2 Samuel 11-15]

No. 1: Introduction to 1 Peter and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 251-2 pars. 1-5; p. 253 pars. 11-13)
No. 2: 1 Peter 4:1-11
No. 3: Mahlah (No. 1)—Theme: Jehovah Is Righteous
No. 4: Live Within Your Means (*fy* pp. 39-41 pars. 1-6)

Nov. 2 Bible reading: 2 Peter 1-3

Song No. 177 [*2 Samuel 16-20]

No. 1: Introduction to 2 Peter and Why Beneficial (*si* p. 254 pars. 1-3; p. 255 pars. 8-10)
No. 2: 2 Peter 3:1-13
No. 3: Caring for the Household Is a Family Project (*fy* pp. 42-4 pars. 7-11)
No. 4: Manasseh (No. 4)—Theme: Jehovah's Mercy Is Great 7

Nov. 9 Bible reading: 1 John 1-5

Song No. 114 [*2 Samuel 21–1 Kings 1]

No. 1: Introduction to 1 John and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 256-7 pars. 1-5; p. 258 pars. 11-13)
No. 2: 1 John 5:1-12
No. 3: Manoah—Theme: Be Ready to Conform to God's Will
No. 4: Why Jehovah Requires That We Be Clean (*fy* pp. 45-9 pars. 12-20)

Nov. 16 Bible reading: 2 John–Jude

Song No. 22 [*1 Kings 2-6]

No. 1: Introduction to 2 John, 3 John, and Jude and Why Beneficial (*si* p. 259 pars. 1-3, 5; pp. 260-1 pars. 1-3, 5; pp. 261-3 pars. 1-4, 8-10)
No. 2: 2 John 1:1-13
No. 3: What Sincere Commendation and Gratitude Can Do for a Family (*fy* pp. 49-50 pars. 21-2)
No. 4: Mark, I—Theme: Do Not Brood Over Past Difficulties

Nov. 23 Bible reading: Revelation 1-3

Song No. 195 [*1 Kings 7-10]

No. 1: Introduction to Revelation (*si* pp. 263-4 pars. 1-6)
No. 2: Revelation 3:1-11
No. 3: Martha—Theme: Loving Hospitality Is Appreciated
No. 4: The Bible's View of Children and Family Responsibility (*fy* pp. 51-2 pars. 1-5)

Nov. 30 Bible reading: Revelation 4-6

2

Song No. 203 [*1 Kings 11-15]

No. 1: One True Religion, Chosen by God (*jv* p. 704 par. 1–p. 706 par. 4)
No. 2: Revelation 5:1-12
No. 3: What It Means to Fill a Child's Needs (*fy* pp. 53-5 pars. 6-9)
No. 4: Mary (No. 1)—Theme: Faith and Devotion Bring Rewards

Dec. 7 Bible reading: Revelation 7-9

Song No. 200 [*1 Kings 16-20]

No. 1: Jehovah Blesses Those Who Apply the Truth in Their Lives (*jv* p. 707 par. 1–p. 709 par. 5)
No. 2: Revelation 8:1-13
No. 3: Mary (No. 2)—Theme: Make Spirituality Your Main Interest
No. 4: Inculcate the Truth in Your Child (*fy* pp. 55-7 pars. 10-15)

Dec. 14 Bible reading: Revelation 10-12

Song No. 137 [*1 Kings 21–2 Kings 3]

No. 1: The Distinguishing Mark That Identifies Jesus' True Disciples (*jv* p. 710 par. 1–p. 712 par. 3)
No. 2: Revelation 10:1-11
No. 3: Teach Your Child Jehovah's Ways (*fy* pp. 58-9 pars. 16-19)
No. 4: Mary (No. 3)—Theme: Appreciate What Jehovah and Jesus Have Done for You

Dec. 21 Bible reading: Revelation 13-15

Song No. 60 [*2 Kings 4-9]

No. 1: All of God's True Servants Must Keep on the Watch (*jv* p. 713 par. 1–p. 716 par. 4)
No. 2: Revelation 13:1-15
No. 3: Mary (No. 4)—Theme: Be Constant in Your Acts of Devotion
No. 4: The Vital Need for Discipline in Its Various Forms (*fy* pp. 59-61 pars. 20-3)

Dec. 28 Written Review. Complete 2 Timothy 1–Revelation 15

Song No. 212 [*2 Kings 10-15]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **October:** Individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. Starting October 12, *Kingdom News* No. 35 will be distributed. **November:** Distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 35 will continue. Congregations that complete their territory by reaching householders in each home or dwelling with a copy of *Kingdom News* No. 35 may offer the *Knowledge* book. **December:** *New World Translation* with the book *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* **January:** Any 192-page book published prior to 1985 that the congregation may have in stock. Congregations that do not have a supply of such books may offer *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.*

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *The Secret of Family Happiness.*

October 6:	Pages 5-12
October 13:	Pages 13-22*
October 20:	Pages 22*-26
October 27:	Pages 27-34*

* To or from subheading.

■ The insert in this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* is the "Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 1998" and should be kept for reference throughout 1998.

■ With five full weekends, the month of November may be a convenient time for many to auxiliary pioneer.

■ The meeting times for many congregations will change January 1. So, there may be a need to order a new supply of handbills to show the adjusted meeting times.

■ Memorial invitations for 1998 in the primary language of each congregation have been included with the annual shipment of forms. If other languages are spoken in your territory and you would like a supply of invitations in those languages, these should be requested immediately on a Literature Request Form (S-14). Memorial invitations are available in Arabic, Armenian, Chinese, Croatian, English, French, Greek, Iloko, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Samoan, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. Please request only those languages needed for your territory.

■ Congregations should begin requesting *Examining the Scriptures Daily—1998* with their October literature request. The booklets will be available in Arabic, Armenian, Chinese, Chinese (Simplified), Croatian, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Gujarati, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Iloko, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Samoan, Serbian, Spanish, Swedish, Tagalog, Turkish, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese. These booklets are special-request items and will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists until shipments are made.

Are You a Full-Time Witness?

[1] Would you answer yes to this question? Although not all of Jehovah's dedicated servants can be enrolled in the full-time ministry, is it not reasonable to expect that all of us should view ourselves as his full-time Witnesses? Certainly we should.

[2] There is no such thing as a part-time Christian. Jesus said of his Father: "I always do the things pleasing to him." (John 8:29) Paul, who felt the same way, urged us to "do all things for God's glory." (1 Cor. 10:31) By all means then, all of us should regard ourselves as full-time Witnesses of Jehovah. Our thinking in this way will influence us for good in every activity we pursue.

[3] **Consider the Evidence:** Our appearance, speech, and conduct can indicate to other people that we are indeed Jehovah's Witnesses. We are conscious of the need for a modest appearance, wholesome speech, and proper conduct whenever we are engaging in field service or attending Christian meetings. However, whether we are going to school, working at a secular job, or participating in recreation, everything about us should give evidence that we live by Jehovah's righteous standards.

[4] Jesus said: "A city cannot be hid when situated upon a mountain. . . . Let your light shine before men, that they may see your fine works and give glory to your Father who is in the heavens." (Matt. 5: 14-16) This should be true in everything we do and at all times. If we ever find that we are reluctant to give a witness because of where we are or what we are doing, we need to ask ourselves, 'Am I serving Jehovah part-time or full-time?' May we never have to pass up an opportunity to talk to others about the good news of God's Kingdom.

[5] Remember, we honor and please Jehovah when we can answer the question, "Are you a full-time Witness?" with a resounding "Yes!"

Give *Kingdom News* No. 35 Wide Distribution

[1] October and November will be busy months for all of us. During the first 11 days of October, we will offer individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Then, from Sunday, October 12, through Sunday, November 16, we will join in the worldwide distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 35. It will be our privilege to take an important message to all the people in our locality. It is the answer to the question, "Will All People Ever Love One Another?" During this special campaign, we will distribute *Kingdom News* No. 35 on weekdays. On weekends, in addition to presenting *Kingdom News,* we will feature the current issues of the magazines.

[2] **Who May Have a Share?** As usual, the elders will be at the forefront of the work. Everyone enjoys distributing *Kingdom News,* and no doubt a great many publishers will enroll as auxiliary pioneers during one or both months of the campaign. Other publishers will want to spend more time than usual in the ministry.

[3] Do you have a Bible student who is well along in his study of the *Knowledge* book and who will soon qualify to engage in field service? Perhaps he could become an unbaptized publisher in time to engage in the *Kingdom News* campaign. A simple presentation is all that is needed to introduce the tract. For example, one might say: "This message is so important that it is being distributed worldwide this month in 169 languages. I would like you to have your personal copy." Even young children can have a fine share in this exciting work.

[4] Book study conductors should encourage every member of their group to have a full share in the distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 35. There also may be publishers who have become inactive but who would again be active in the service if they received the needed encouragement. In advance of the campaign, the elders should visit each of these to see what can be done to help them accompany experienced publishers in this feature of the ministry.

[5] **When May We Meet for Service?** All this activity will call for group witnessing arrangements that are both convenient and practical. Wherever possible, meetings for service should be organized for each weekday, on the weekends, and in the evenings. They should be held at times that will enable publishers and pioneers to take full advantage of the witnessing period. Arrangements also may be made to meet in the late afternoons for the benefit of school students, shift workers, and others. The service overseer should ensure that there will be plenty of house-to-house and business territory on hand so that everyone can share fully in the work. Where there are many publishers in an area, they should be discreet about how many work in a given section of territory.

[6] **What About Not-at-Homes?** We want to speak personally to as many householders as possible to explain why they should read *Kingdom News* No. 35. So if no one is at home when you call, write down the address and call again at a different time of day. If by the last week of the campaign your efforts to contact these householders still have been unsuccessful, you may leave a copy of *Kingdom News* at the door in a place where it will not be seen by passersby. In residential areas, be alert to offer *Kingdom News* to individuals who may be walking along the street. When working rural areas and where there is more territory than can be covered during the campaign, a copy of *Kingdom News* may be left at not-at-homes on the first call.

[7] **What Is Our Objective?** Congregations should endeavor to use their entire supply of *Kingdom News* to cover all their territory before the campaign ends on November 16. If your congregation's territory assignment is quite large and if it is safe to work on your own rather than with a partner, you may find it practical to do so. This will enable you to reach as many deserving ones as possible with the good news. (Matt. 10:11) It may be advantageous to carry a few tracts in your hand and a Bible in your pocket or purse, rather than use a briefcase. Be sure to keep a good record of where interest is found.

[8] **Are You Ready to Start?** The elders should anticipate how many extra magazines the congregation will need and should order accordingly. There is no need to order *Kingdom News* No. 35, since a consignment is being sent to each congregation. Special, regular, and auxiliary pioneers will have 250 copies each to distribute, while congregation publishers will be allotted 50 copies each. We have our work cut out for us. Are you eager to share in this delightful activity? No doubt you are. Let us give the important Bible-based message in *Kingdom News* No. 35 the widest possible distribution!

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

November 1997 For United States of America Vol. 40, No. 11

The Large Door to Activity Is Open

[1] As a zealous preacher of the good news, Paul eagerly searched out territories where the need was greater, one of which was the city of Ephesus. He had such fine success preaching there that he wrote to fellow Christians: "A large door that leads to activity has been opened to me." (1 Cor. 16:9) Paul continued to serve in that territory and helped many Ephesians to become believers. —Acts 19:1-20, 26.

[2] Today, a large door leading to activity has been opened to us. We have an invitation to assist congregations that are not able to work all their territory thoroughly every year. Thus our efforts can offset the need that exists in certain areas. —Compare 2 Corinthians 8: 13-15.

[3] **Can You Serve Where There Is Greater Need?** Have you prayerfully considered the possibility of serving elsewhere? You may be able to help a congregation in your own city. Why not speak to the circuit overseer about the matter and see what he suggests? Or it may be that within your own congregation's territory, there is a large deaf or foreign-language population that no one has been able to care for. In order to meet this need, could you exert yourself to learn their language? Then again, perhaps there is already another language group or congregation nearby that has been 'begging the Master for more Kingdom workers.' (Matt. 9:37, 38) If so, are you able to help out?

[4] In recent decades, thousands of Christian families have moved to other lands to have a fuller share in the harvest work. One couple who did this said: "We wanted to serve Jehovah where we could do the most good." If you have this desire and find it possible to move elsewhere in this country or if you qualify to serve in another land, first discuss your prospects with the elders of your congregation.

[5] If you wish to inquire of the Society about where a need exists, provide the Congregation Service Committee with a letter outlining your specific desire. They will attach their comments and send it to the Society. In any case, as long as the large door to activity remains open, may all of us continue to be busy in Jehovah's service.—1 Cor. 15:58.

Reach Out to Non-Witness Mates

[1] It is a cause for great joy when married couples are united in true worship. However, in many families only one of the marriage mates has accepted the way of the truth. How can we reach out to these non-Witness mates and encourage them to worship Jehovah along with us?—1 Tim. 2: 1-4.

[2] **Understand Their Thinking:** Although some non-Witness mates may be opposed, more often than not the problem is one of indifference or misunderstanding. A person may feel left out or be jealous over his or her mate's newfound spiritual interest. "Alone in the house, I felt deserted," one husband recalls. "I felt as if my wife and children were leaving me," says another. Some men may think that they are losing their family to a religion. (See the August 15, 1990, *Watchtower,* pages 20-3.) That is why it is best, if possible, for the husband to be included with his wife in the home Bible study arrangement from the start.

[3] **Work as a Team:** One Witness couple effectively worked together in aiding married people into the truth. After the sister had established a study with the wife, the brother would pay the husband a visit. He would often be able to start a study with the husband.

[4] **Be Friendly and Hospitable:** Families in the congregation can help by taking an interest in families not yet united in true worship. A few friendly visits may help the non-Witness mate to see Jehovah's Witnesses as warm, caring Christians who have everyone's best interests at heart.

[5] From time to time, the elders can review recent efforts that have been made to reach out to non-Witness mates and determine what more can be done in hopes of winning them to Jehovah.—1 Pet. 3:1, ftn.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR NOVEMBER

Week Starting November 3

Song 48

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* "Good News on the Internet." Comment on August field service report for the country and the local congregation.

15 min: "The Large Door to Activity Is Open." Talk by an elder, including audience discussion. Encourage all who can to reach out for a greater share in the preaching work. Include some advice offered in the August 15, 1988, *Watchtower,* page 22.

20 min: "Follow Up the Interest in *Kingdom News.*" Questions and answers. Demonstrate presentations in paragraph 6. In one of them, show a Bible study being started.

Song 144 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 10

Song 51

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Inform congregation of what territory remains to be covered with *Kingdom News* No. 35. Encourage all to have a full share in this final week of the special campaign.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Reach Out to Non-Witness Mates." Discussion between two elders who are concerned about getting to know more of the unbelieving mates on a personal level. They also consider suggestions offered in the May 15, 1989, *Watchtower,* pages 17-18, paragraphs 6-9. Include experiences from the October 1, 1995, *Watchtower,* pages 10-11, paragraphs 11-12.

Song 148 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 17

Song 53

10 min: Local announcements. Outline special field service arrangements for November 27. Share some local experiences from the *Kingdom News* No. 35 campaign.

20 min: Seize This Unique Opportunity! A talk based on the November 15, 1996, *Watchtower,* pages 21-3.

15 min: "What Will I Say?" Audience discussion. Read first paragraph on page 8 of the *Reasoning* book, explaining how the book is designed to help us witness effectively on a variety of Bible topics. Illustrate with one or two well-prepared demonstrations.

Song 151 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 24

Song 56

8 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Good Manners at the Congregation Book Study. We appreciate the hospitality of families who open their home for a book study. This may involve considerable preparation and inconvenience. When attending, we should display good manners and show respect and consideration, which would include the following: (1) We should wipe our feet carefully before entering, to avoid soiling floors or carpets. (2) Parents should supervise their children, making sure that they are well behaved and stay in the area of the home designated for the book study. (3) While the group may be small and the atmosphere somewhat informal, this is a congregation meeting and we should dress as we do when going to the Kingdom Hall. (4) Association after the meeting should be kept brief so that the household can have private time for itself. (5) While the householder where the study is held might choose occasionally to serve a light refreshment after the study, all should understand that such is neither expected nor required.

22 min: Make Disciples, Teaching Them. Elder conducts discussion with panel of three or four publishers, answering questions based on *Our Ministry* book, pages 88-92: (1) Why is making return visits essential for an effective ministry? How can one meet the challenge of the return visit work? (2) Why do we put so much emphasis on starting Bible studies? How can we become skillful in conducting studies? (3) Why is it important to direct the students to the organization? How can we do this? Panel also relates how the recent *Our Kingdom Ministry* inserts of June 1996 and March and April 1997 have assisted them in these areas.

Song 160 and concluding prayer.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *The Secret of Family Happiness.*

November 3:	Pages 34*-38
November 10:	Pages 39-45*
November 17:	Pages 45*-50
November 24:	Pages 51-59*

* To or from subheading.

AUGUST SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**111**	**118.1**	**84.1**	**48.3**	**4.3**
Pios.	**67,916**	**59.3**	**36.3**	**19.1**	**1.7**
Aux. Pios.	**22,425**	**57.7**	**36.6**	**13.9**	**1.0**
Pubs.	**884,267**	**9.4**	**7.3**	**3.4**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**974,719**				Baptized: **3,998**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **November:** Distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 35 will continue. Congregations that complete their territory by reaching householders in each home or dwelling with a copy of *Kingdom News* No. 35 may offer the *Knowledge* book. **December:** *New World Translation* with the book *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* **January:** Any 192-page book published prior to 1985 that the congregation may have in stock. Congregations that do not have a supply of such books may offer *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.* **February:** *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*

■ After the special campaign is completed on November 16, congregations that still have a supply of *Kingdom News* No. 35 may encourage publishers to offer these in the same manner that tracts are used, whether from door to door or elsewhere. If advisable, publishers may leave one at each not-at-home, making sure that it cannot be seen by passersby. Efforts should be made to distribute all remaining copies of this important message.

■ Congregations should begin requesting the *1998 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses* with their November literature request. The *Yearbook* will be available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Swedish. *Yearbooks* are special-request items and will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists until shipments are made.

■ New Audiocassettes Available:
Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life (five cassettes in an album) —Spanish

■ New Videocassettes Available:
Noah—He Walked With God —English

Good News on the Internet

In our technological age, some people obtain information from electronic sources, including the Internet. So the Society has put on the Internet some accurate information about the beliefs and activities of Jehovah's Witnesses.

Our Internet Web site has the address *http://www.watchtower.org* and contains a selection of tracts, brochures, and *Watchtower* and *Awake!* articles in English, Chinese (Simplified), German, Russian, and Spanish, as well as in other languages. The publications on this Web site are already available through the congregations and are in use in the ministry. The purpose of our Web site is, not to release new publications, but to make information available to the public in electronic format. There is no need for any individual to prepare Internet pages about Jehovah's Witnesses, our activities, or our beliefs. Our official site presents accurate information for any who want it.

Although our site has no provision for electronic messages (E-mail), it lists postal addresses of branches around the globe. Thus people can write to obtain more information or to receive personal assistance from Witnesses locally. Feel free to share the above Internet address with any who might be inclined to begin learning Bible truth from this format.

What Will I Say?

When we meet people in the ministry who respond favorably, we desire to return to give them a further witness. However, we may be unsure of what to say to spark the next conversation. You might try this approach: Raise an interesting question, and then turn to the *Reasoning* book to show the Scriptural answer. It would help to have a list of questions from which you could select the one that you feel might get the best response at a particular call. The list below, compiled from the *Reasoning* book, shows the page number where each answer is found:

- Why do we grow old and die? (98)
- Are there sound reasons for believing in God? (145)
- Does God really care what happens to us humans? (147)
- Must a person go to heaven to have a truly happy future? (163)
- Why is it important to know and use God's personal name? (196)
- What will God's Kingdom accomplish? (227)
- What is the purpose of human life? (243)
- Why are there so many religions? (322)
- How can a person know which religion is right? (328)
- How powerful a figure is Satan in today's world? (364)
- Why does God permit suffering? (393)
- Why is there so much wickedness? (427)

You could put such a list of questions in your Bible or *Reasoning* book for quick reference. Having something definite in mind to say on return visits will encourage you to be faithful in following up all the interest you find.

Follow Up the Interest in *Kingdom News*

[1] During the last few weeks, we have been enjoying the privilege of distributing *Kingdom News* No. 35, entitled "Will All People Ever Love One Another?" Publishers everywhere are endeavoring to reach as many deserving ones as possible with this issue of *Kingdom News*. (Matt. 10:11) Although the campaign is scheduled to end Sunday, November 16, if there is still more territory to be covered, the elders may ask you to continue distributing *Kingdom News* No. 35 as long as the congregation's supply lasts.

when of interest

[2] This issue of *Kingdom News* has stirred the interest of many people. They see that humans in general have lost their natural affection and therefore wonder what the future holds. (2 Tim. 3:3) We want to follow up the interest that has been generated.

[3] ***Kingdom News* Gets Results:** During the 1995 campaign with *Kingdom News*, a woman who received a copy came to a meeting at the Kingdom Hall because she wanted to learn more about what Jehovah's Witnesses believe. At that meeting she readily accepted a Bible study and thereafter rarely missed a meeting. Before long, she had written to her former church, terminating her membership!

[4] By now, hundreds of people in the territory have read the message in *Kingdom News* No. 35. But what was their reaction to it? Even if they were favorably impressed by what they read, most will not take action until one of Jehovah's Witnesses calls on them again. Are you making plans to return? Loving concern for our fellowman should move us to do so. All who have shown interest in *Kingdom News* should be visited again.

[5] **What Will You Say When You Return?** You might make a few comments about the timeliness of the message in *Kingdom News* and then ask a thought-provoking question. Listen carefully as the householder expresses himself so that you can learn what is on his mind. Then draw attention to an appropriate point in the *Require* brochure, which was featured in *Kingdom News*. If you get a favorable response, try to start a Bible study then and there.

Dawson

[6] ***Here are some suggested presentations you could try when returning to those who showed interest in "Kingdom News" No. 35:***

- "You may recall the printed information I left with you recently. Its message touches on a vital issue dividing mankind today—a lack of love for others." Draw attention to the evidence presented on page 2 of *Kingdom News* under the heading "Love of Neighbor Has Grown Cold." Then ask, "Do you think it is God's purpose for mankind to live this way?" Allow for response. Turn to lesson 5 in the *Require* brochure, and try to start a Bible study.
- "When we first met, I left you some information on the subject 'Will All People Ever Love One Another?' Do you think that such a world is possible?" Allow for response. Turn to lesson 6 in the *Require* brochure, and read paragraph 6. Then read God's promise at Micah 4:3, 4. If the householder appears interested, offer the brochure and a study.
- "When I last visited you, I left some material entitled 'Will All People Ever Love One Another?' It contained an offer for a free home Bible study. I returned to show you the study aid that we use. [Show the *Knowledge* book.] This book clearly explains when all people will love one another, and it answers other questions that you may wonder about: Why do we grow old and die? Why does God permit suffering? What happens to our dead loved ones?" Then ask, "May I demonstrate the study course to you?" If the householder declines your offer, ask him if he would like to read the book on his own. If he would, leave a copy and explain that our worldwide Bible-educational work is supported by voluntary donations. Plan to return again.

[7] Once the territory is thoroughly covered with *Kingdom News* No. 35, we may offer the *Knowledge* book during the remainder of the month. A fine selection of suggested presentations for this book can be found on the back page of *Our Kingdom Ministry* in the issues of December 1995; March, June, and November 1996; and June 1997.

[8] This special distribution of *Kingdom News* should motivate all of us to intensify our efforts in the preaching work. With Jehovah's help we can be confident that this campaign will have sure success, helping people see God's purpose for all mankind to love one another. May Jehovah continue to bless our diligent efforts as we follow up the interest in *Kingdom News*.

ECP?

[illegible]

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

December 1997 For United States of America Vol. 40, No. 12

Speak About Jehovah Every Day

[1] People enjoy talking about whatever they hold dear to their heart, for out of the heart's abundance the mouth speaks. (Luke 6:45b) What is close to our heart? The psalmist wrote: "Let my own tongue utter in an undertone your righteousness, all day long your praise." (Ps. 35:28) He had deep appreciation for Jehovah and counted it a real privilege to speak about God and to praise him on every occasion. Being intimately acquainted with Jehovah, the psalmist had many good things to exult over. (Ps. 35:9) How can we imitate his fine example?

[2] **Speak About Jehovah in Your Home:** Jehovah should be a daily topic of conversation within the family circle. Parents who have a strong love for Jehovah will naturally speak of him in all their activities. (Deut. 6:5-7) As they do, the children will observe that their father and mother live by faith and cherish the law of God. The children will then view the family Bible study as a genuine expression of their parents' godly devotion.—2 Pet. 3:11.

[3] **Speak About Jehovah With Your Brothers:** During our weekly theocratic routine, we have many opportunities to feed our minds and hearts on spiritual food. We are never lacking for good things to tell. (Luke 6:45a) Is there a point you gleaned from your personal study or weekly Bible reading that you especially enjoyed? Share it with your brothers, thereby helping them to increase their love for Jehovah.—Ps. 35:18; Heb. 10:24.

[4] **Speak About Jehovah to Others:** In our everyday dealings with people—at work, in school, and with unbelieving family members—it should be readily apparent that our focus in life is the bearing of witness about Jehovah. Rather than be tainted with crude and coarse expressions of the world, our speech should exalt God. Daily, at every opportunity, speak to others about the good news he has commissioned us to preach. —Acts 5:42; Col. 4:6.

[5] As true worshipers of Jehovah, may we daily seize occasions to speak about our incomparable God, Jehovah.—Ps. 106:47.

You Are Missed!

[1] From time to time, we may miss one or more congregation meetings, feeling that 'nobody will miss me; they won't even notice I'm not there.' That is not true! Like any member of our physical body, each of us plays a vital role in the functioning of the congregation. (1 Cor. 12:12) Our absence from a weekly meeting can affect the spiritual well-being of others who attend. If you are not there, be assured—*you are missed!*

[2] **The Vital Role You Play:** Paul longed to associate with his brothers. Romans 1:11, 12 explains why: "That I may impart some spiritual gift to you . . . that there may be an interchange of encouragement among you, by each one through the other's faith, both yours and mine." Likewise, by our comments, our parts on the meeting, and our very presence, we do much to build one another up to continue in a faithful course.—1 Thess. 5:11.

[3] Do you not look forward to seeing others at congregation meetings? You listen closely to their comments and appreciate their expressions of faith. Their spiritual gifts contribute to your upbuilding. If they were not present at the meeting, you would feel that something important was missing. Your brothers and sisters feel the same way about you if you are not present.

[4] **The Vital Role Meetings Play:** *The Watchtower* once commented on how vital the meetings are for our spiritual survival, saying: "In this strife-torn, immoral world, the Christian congregation is a real spiritual refuge . . . , a haven of peace and love. Therefore, be a regular attender at all of its meetings." (*w*93 8/15 11) Each day, we are confronted by situations that drain us spiritually. If we are not careful, we could become so absorbed in our own anxieties that we might lose sight of the more important spiritual concerns. All of us are dependent on one another for the encouragement we need in order to remain united and zealous in God's service.—Heb. 10:24, 25.

[5] Our attendance at meetings is vital. Illness or unforeseen occurrence may keep us away occasionally. Otherwise, let us be determined always to be counted among the congregated throngs who praise Jehovah together!—Ps. 26:12.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER

Week Starting December 1

Song 57

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

15 min: "Speak About Jehovah Every Day." Questions and answers. When covering paragraph 4, include comments from *School Guidebook,* study 16, paragraphs 14-16.

20 min: "The Bible—God's Guide for All People." An elder discusses article along with reasons why everyone should be motivated to examine the Bible. (See brochure *A Book for All People,* pages 30, 32.) Briefly interview two publishers as to how they have prepared to use the suggested presentations in paragraphs 3-8. Demonstrate one of these for the initial call and corresponding return visit.

Song 165 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 8

Song 58

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

20 min: Why Report What Is Bad? Talk by an elder based on the August 15, 1997, *Watchtower,* pages 26-30.

15 min: "You Are Missed!" Audience discussion conducted by an elder. Mention meeting attendance averages for the congregation. Invite some to relate reasons why they are refreshed by being together at meetings.

Song 172 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 15

Song 63

10 min: Local announcements. Offer suggestions on how to respond tactfully to worldly holiday greetings. Outline special field service arrangements for December 25 and January 1.

10 min: Local needs.

25 min: "We Ought to Be Teachers, Not Just Preachers." Questions and answers. When covering paragraph 11, read *School Guidebook,* study 15, paragraph 11.

Song 174 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 22

Song 138

8 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to bring January 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert with them to meeting next week.

17 min: "The Theocratic Ministry School for 1998." A talk by the school overseer. Review ways that all can benefit more fully from the school during the coming year. Encourage keeping up with the new "Supplemental Bible-Reading Schedule" each week.

20 min: Preach the Good News Everywhere. Audience discussion of *Our Ministry* book, pages 92-7, using these questions: (1) Why is the use of our literature effective in spreading the good news? Why should we offer literature at every opportunity? Why is it important to mention the donation arrangement? (2) Why should we be conscious of doing informal witnessing? What are some ways to witness informally? (Invite some to relate experiences of witnessing informally.) (3) Why should the congregation strive for good coverage of its assigned territory? Where territory is plentiful, what is the advantage of having a personal territory? (4) How do we benefit from arrangements for group witnessing? How can we plan our witnessing activity to make sure that we make the best use of our time?

Song 222 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 29

Song 181

8 min: Local announcements. Remind all to turn in field service reports. If your congregation will change meeting times for the new year, give kind encouragement urging all to maintain regular attendance with the congregation at its new times.

12 min: Review Literature Offer for January. Show older books that the congregation has an ample supply of, and mention interesting talking points that will be helpful in preparing presentations. Include one demonstration. We should continue our efforts to start studies either in the *Require* brochure or in the *Knowledge* book.

25 min: Prepare to Attend 1998 District Convention. Secretary handles question-and-answer coverage of convention information in January 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert. First, read December 15, 1997, convention assignment letter. Then, after considering paragraph 5 of article, read opening and closing paragraphs of Recommended Lodging List. As noted in the article, emphasize the Scriptural principles for following the Society's direction in rooming matters. Commend the brothers for cooperating with the Society's arrangement.

Song 215 and concluding prayer.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *The Secret of Family Happiness.*

December 1:	Pages 59*-63
December 8:	Pages 64-71*
December 15:	Pages 71*-75
December 22:	Pages 76-82*
December 29:	Pages 82*-89

* To or from subheading.

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We Ought to Be Teachers, Not Just Preachers

[1] It has been observed that "Jehovah's Witnesses have literally covered the earth with their witnessing." How has this been possible? Not by human might or power, but by God's spirit operating upon his servants as they make use of various provisions to fulfill their preaching and teaching commission.—Zech. 4:6; Acts 1:8.

[2] The printed page is an effective means to accomplish our preaching work. Over the years, billions of books, booklets, brochures, magazines, and tracts have been printed and distributed by Jehovah's Witnesses to help make known the Kingdom good news. Reports in the *1997 Yearbook* show that production of literature has reached record levels. To date, over 91 million copies of the *New World Translation* have been printed. In one year the number of *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines printed in the United States rose by 7.1 percent. In Germany, magazine production rose by 35 percent. Over one third of the magazines produced there were for the Russian field.

[3] Why is so much literature needed? Worldwide, there has been a tremendous response to the encouragement given for us to witness wherever people can be found. With more of us extending our witnessing work—in public places, on the streets, and in business territory—greater amounts of literature are being placed with people who show some interest. Many of these have rarely, if ever, had the opportunity to hear the Kingdom message previously. To meet this need, congregations keep on hand a variety of publications for use in all features of the ministry.

[4] **What Is Our Goal in Distributing Literature?** Our goal is not just to place literature. The commission to make disciples involves two aspects—preaching and teaching. First, we have the privilege of *preaching* the good news of the Kingdom, making people aware that it is the only hope for mankind. (Matt. 10:7; 24:14) Our Bible-based literature is a time-tested and effective means of stimulating interest and imparting knowledge about the Kingdom to others.

[5] Second, if we are to make disciples, we must *teach* all the things Jesus commanded. (Matt. 11:1; 28:19, 20) Again, the literature plays an important role in our sounding the truth down into the hearts of students, helping them to become disciples.

[6] Those who accept literature may be 'hearers of the word,' but it is unlikely that they will become doers of it if they are left on their own. (Jas. 1:22-25) Few will ever become disciples unless someone guides them. (Acts 8:30, 31) They need a teacher to help them prove to themselves the truth that is found in the Scriptures. (Acts 17:2, 3) Our goal is to help them progress to the point of dedication and baptism and to train them to become adequately qualified to teach others.—2 Tim. 2:2.

[7] **The Greatest Need Is for More Teachers:** When we preach, we declare the good news publicly. Teaching, however, involves instructing someone progressively. While *preaching* makes others aware of the Kingdom message, *teaching* helps individuals accept the good news and act on it. (Luke 8:15) A teacher does more than proclaim; he explains, reasons with good argumentation, offers proofs, and persuades.

[8] As many of us as possible ought to be teachers, not just preachers. (Heb. 5:12a) Distributing literature is a vital part of our work, but achieving the second objective of our ministry ultimately depends upon what we do as teachers. Although we can be pleased when we are able to place literature, to accomplish our ministry fully, we should not view a placement as our final goal. (2 Tim. 4:5) Placements are an effective means of opening the door to opportunities to teach the truth to others.

[9] **Make Return Visits to Start Bible Studies:** All of us have likely placed a number of books, brochures, and magazines, compiling a list of return visits. We should schedule a regular time to go back to stimulate interest.

Our main purpose in returning is not just to place more literature but to encourage people to read and benefit from what they already have. How much spiritual progress would we ourselves have made had it not been that someone returned time and again to help us acquire accurate knowledge?—John 17:3.

10 Follow up all interest with a view toward starting a Bible study either in the brochure *What Does God Require of Us?* or in the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. These two publications present the Kingdom message in a form that is easily understood. The *Require* brochure contains a well-rounded-out study course, covering the basic teachings of the Bible. The *Knowledge* book enables one to teach the truth in greater detail, yet with simplicity, clarity, and brevity.

11 The simplified teaching program, as explained in the insert of the June 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* makes it easy for the teacher to instruct and for the student to learn. Keep a copy of that insert readily available to review teaching methods and techniques that have proved effective. Some of the suggestions it gives involve how to take a genuine personal interest in the student, how much material to cover in one session, how to handle questions that do not pertain to the subject, how both teacher and student can prepare in advance for the study, and how to direct the student to Jehovah's organization. By following the suggestions, more of us, including newer ones, will be able to conduct progressive studies.

12 **Reports of Good Success From the Field:** The *Require* brochure and the *Knowledge* book have proved to be valuable aids in speeding up the process of making disciples. Upon receiving the *Require* brochure, a brother in Bolivia immediately used it to start a study with a man. Four months later at the district convention, this student was among the happy candidates for baptism!

13 Many are being moved to dedicate their lives to Jehovah after completing their study of the *Knowledge* book. In one congregation in Angola, the number of Bible studies conducted by the publishers increased from 190 to 260 and meeting attendance doubled in number from 180 to 360 in only four months after the *Knowledge* book began to be used in that area. Shortly thereafter, it was necessary to form another congregation.

14 After starting his first study in the *Knowledge* book, one brother said that conducting it is "simple if the conductor just asks the questions, reads some applicable scriptures, and makes sure that the student understands." Although he always thought that only very qualified publishers could conduct progressive Bible studies and that he could never do it, he realized that he could, saying: "If I can, anyone can."

15 It is by conducting Bible studies as a part of our ministry that we accomplish the objective of making disciples. Those who have developed the ability to share in this aspect of the ministry find it truly satisfying and richly rewarding. May it be said of us that we also are "preaching the kingdom of God . . . and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with the greatest freeness of speech."—Acts 28:31.

NEW PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

■ New Publications Available:

Apply Yourself to Reading and Writing —Portuguese

Brochure No. 1 of Watchtower Study Articles —Urdu

Is This Life All There Is? —Arabic

Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation? (Small size) —Serbian

The Secret of Family Happiness —Hebrew

Watch Tower Publications Scripture Index 1991-1995 —Turkish

Watch Tower Publications Index 1991-1994 —Hungarian

What Does God Require of Us? —Bengali, Marshallese, Myanmar

■ New Audiocassettes Available:

Doing What Is Right in Jehovah's Eyes (Drama, single cassette) —Italian

The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived (eight cassettes in an album) —German, Korean

What Does God Require of Us? (single cassette) —French, Korean

Why Respect Theocratic Arrangements? (Drama, single cassette) —English

■ New Compact Discs Available:

Kingdom Melodies, Volume 5

Kingdom Melodies, Volume 6

■ New Videocassettes Available:

Jehovah's Witnesses Stand Firm Against Nazi Assault —Russian

Purple Triangles —German

The Bible—Mankind's Oldest Modern Book —Polish

The New World Society in Action —Chinese (Cantonese), Chinese (Mandarin), Japanese

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

Closed-book review on material covered in Theocratic Ministry School assignments for the weeks of September 1 to December 22, 1997. Use a separate sheet of paper to write down answers to as many of the questions as you can in the time allotted.

[Note: During the written review, only the Bible may be used to answer any question. References that follow the questions are for your personal research. Page and paragraph numbers may not appear on all references to *The Watchtower*.]

Answer each of the following statements True or False:

1. Although the record states that faithless King Jehoram ruled in the northern kingdom of Israel, we do not know who his parents were or how he died. [*it*-1 p. 1270 pars. 8, 12]
2. At Luke 22:30, "the twelve tribes of Israel" have the same significance as at Matthew 19:28, where the application broadens out beyond Jesus' spirit-begotten underpriests to include all others of mankind. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*87 3/1 p. 27 par. 10; p. 28 par. 12.]
3. The reason Jesus' disciples expressed wonderment at his speaking with a Samaritan woman was that she had an immoral background. (John 4:27) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*95 7/15 p. 15 pars. 1-2.]
4. The expression "from the beginning" at John 6:64 indicates that Jesus knew at the time Judas was chosen as an apostle that he would be the one to betray Him. [Weekly Bible reading; see *it*-2 p. 129 pars. 4-6.]
5. The Society's charter of 1884 referred only to its being a publishing organization. [*jv* p. 576 par. 1]
6. Exodus 21:22, 23 helps us to appreciate that God views the unborn human child as a precious life. [*kl* p. 128 par. 21]
7. The "festival of the Jews" mentioned at John 5:1 refers to the Passover of 31 C.E. [*si* p. 194 par. 8]
8. Spreading the Kingdom message through radio and television broadcasts is as effective as any other methods we may use. [*jv* p. 572 par. 3]
9. Since Jehoiachin had fathered seven sons, the Scriptural decree, "Write down this man as childless," must have been an error. (Jer. 22:30) [*it*-1 p. 1267 par. 10]
10. Whether civil authorities are viewed as just or unjust, true Christians should have their marriage properly registered with them. [*kl* p. 122 par. 11]

Answer the following questions:

11. In harmony with the example of first-century Ephesian Christians, what is one necessary step that must be taken to resist wicked spirits? (Acts 19:19) [*kl* p. 114 par. 14] rid of material of dem relat
12. How did certain angels sin in Noah's day? [*kl* p. 109 par. 4] marrying wome
13. Why did Jesus refuse to get involved in an inheritance dispute? (Luke 12:13, 14) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*97 4/1 p. 28.] Personal matter
14. Of what were the disciples unaware when they asked Jesus if he was going to restore the Kingdom to Israel, as recorded at Acts 1:6? [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*90 6/1 p. 11 par. 4.] Heave
15. Why was Adolf Hitler unable to carry out his threat to exterminate Jehovah's people? [*jv* p. 553 pars. 2-4] Gods Wor
16. How did Jairus *demonstrate* that he had faith in Jesus' ability to cure? (Mark 5:22-24) [*it*-1 p. 1250 par. 14] ask Jesus cure
17. Why does the *New World Translation* say "the Word was a god" and not "the Word was God," as other translations do at John 1:1? [Weekly Bible reading; see *rs* 212 par. 5.] Gr. specified a not t
18. According to the book of Revelation, where will "those practicing spiritism"

end up if they do not repent and change their ways? [*kl* p. 111 par. 8] Gehena

19. Since Jesus was a perfect man and he acknowledged his role as Teacher, why did he not accept being called "Good Teacher"? (Luke 18:18, 19) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*95 3/1 p. 15 par. 7.]
Implication of More

20. What was new about the commandment stated at John 13:34? [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*90 2/1 p. 21 pars. 5-6.]
Die for

Provide the word(s) or phrase needed to complete each of the following statements:

21. The example of Ittai, the Gittite, who demonstrated loyalty to David, should move us to demonstrate this same quality toward those taking the lead in Jehovah's organization today. (2 Sam. 15:21) [*it*-1 p. 1237 par. 17]

22. The "ten minas" represent assets works that spirit-begotten disciples could make use of in producing more [illegible] of the heavenly Kingdom. (Luke 19:13) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*89 10/1 p. 8.]

23. Three false charges that the Jews made against Jesus to Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea, included subverting the Gov., forbidding the paying of Taxes, and saying He Himself was King. (Luke 23:2) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*90 12/1 p. 9 par. 1.]

24. True Christians do not celebrate Christmas or any other holiday based on false religious beliefs because they give Jehovah exc. devotion; they also do not observe holidays that glorify sinful humans or nations. [*kl* p. 126 par. 16]

25. The book of Acts was written by Luke while he was in Rome. [*si* p. 199 par. 3]

Select the correct answer in each of the following statements:

26. By 1992, over (2,500; 4,500; 6,500) students from (40; 80; 110) countries had been trained at Gilead and had thereafter served in over (100; 150; 200) lands and island groups. [*jv* p. 524 par. 2]

27. In (1877; 1879; 1881), Charles T. Russell published the booklet *The Object and Manner of Our Lord's Return,* and in (1877; 1879; 1881) he began publishing *Zion's Watch Tower and Herald of Christ's Presence*. [*jv* p. 557 par. 1]

28. Our living a godly life guarantees that (we will always be treated well by others; we will enjoy an abundance of material things now; we will have God's smile of approval because we are doing what is right). [*kl* p. 118 par. 2]

29. When Jesus asked the apostle Peter, "Do you love me more than these?," He was asking Peter if he loved Him more than (he loved these other disciples; these other disciples loved Jesus; he loved these things, such as the fish). (John 21:15) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*88 11/1 p. 31 par. 9.]

30. For the most part, those who have taken the lead in spreading the good news have been (wealthy people; people looked up to by the world; common people). [*jv* p. 548 par. 3]

Match the following scriptures to the statements listed below:

2 Ki. 10:15, 16; Prov. 3:9, 10; Luke 9:60, 62; 13:4, 5; Rom. 9:10-12

31. Jesus argued against fatalistic reasoning, referring to a tragedy that was well-known to his listeners and that he evidently attributed to time and unforeseen occurrence. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*96 9/1 p. 5 par. 5.] Lu 13:4.5

32. Jehovah demonstrated his ability to detect the genetic bent of the unborn and to exercise his foreknowledge and right to select beforehand whom he chooses for his purposes. [*it*-1 p. 1242 par. 6] Rom 9:1

33. Single-minded devotion is needed in order to enter the Kingdom. [*si* p. 192 par. 32] Luke 9:60,62

34. Jehovah will bless us as we use our time, energy, and other resources, including our funds, to promote true worship. [*kl* p. 120 par. 8] Prov 3:9,10

35. One must loyally support those taking the lead in Jehovah's worship. [*it*-1 p. 1269 par. 8] 2 Ki

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **December:** *New World Translation* with the book *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* **January:** Any 192-page book published prior to 1985 that the congregation may have in stock. Congregations that do not have a supply of such books may offer *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.* **February:** *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!* **March:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* Concentrate on starting home Bible studies.

SEPTEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**163**	**122.1**	**98.2**	**52.3**	**4.2**
Pios.	**72,651**	**81.2**	**53.7**	**24.0**	**1.7**
Aux. Pios.	**24,459**	**59.2**	**39.8**	**14.6**	**0.9**
Pubs.	**828,401**	**9.4**	**7.5**	**3.4**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**925,674**				Baptized: **2,180**

■ Since the Gilead graduation will be held on Saturday, March 14, 1998, no tours will be conducted that day at the Society's facilities at Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York. Any who have planned to visit on that Saturday should reschedule their visit to another convenient time.

■ Congregations should begin requesting bound volumes of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* for 1997 with their December literature request. The bound volumes will be available in Chinese, Croatian, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish. Until the bound volumes are available and shipments are made, these will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists. Bound volumes are special-request items.

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on December 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. Make announcement to the congregation when this has been done.

■ The Memorial for 1999 will be on Thursday, April 1, after sundown. This advance notice is given so that brothers may make necessary reservations or contracts for available halls when there are several congregations using the Kingdom Hall and other facilities must be found. The elders should have an agreement with the management ensuring that there will be no disturbances from other activities in the building so that the Memorial observance can proceed in a peaceful and orderly manner. Because of the importance of the occasion, in assigning a Memorial speaker, the body of elders should select one of the more qualified elders instead of simply taking turns or using the same brother each year.

The Theocratic Ministry School for 1998

To be schooled means to be "taught or drilled in a specific knowledge or skill." Through the Theocratic Ministry School, we are constantly being trained in the knowledge of God. Also, our participation in this school allows us to develop our speaking and teaching skills. The school program for 1998 will afford us many opportunities to make further spiritual progress.

As you examine next year's school schedule, you will note that occasionally Assignment No. 3 will be based on a Bible character as found in the *Insight* volumes. What is more, the *Family Happiness* book has been added to the curriculum for 1998, and Assignments No. 3 and No. 4 will cover it progressively. Whenever the *Family Happiness* book is the basis for Assignment No. 4, a brother should handle it as a talk to the congregation. And, as a reminder, no one on the school program should go overtime.

A New Feature: For our personal benefit, a "Supplemental Bible-Reading Schedule" is set forth in brackets right after the song number for each week. Although no parts on the weekly school program are based on it, make it your goal to follow it. This will enable you to get into the habit of reading the Bible daily if you are not already doing so.

For more information about assignments, counsel, and written reviews, please read carefully the instructions found in the "Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 1998," as well as page 3 of the October 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

If you are not yet enrolled in the Theocratic Ministry School, we invite you to enroll now. This unique school continues to play an important role in training humble and devoted servants of Jehovah to become better qualified as his ministers.—1 Tim. 4:13-16.

The Bible—God's Guide for All People

1 An estimated four billion Bibles have been printed in more than 2,100 languages and dialects, making God's Word available to over 90 percent of earth's population. Yet, there exists a famine in the world "for hearing the words of Jehovah." (Amos 8:11) Many people who have a copy of the Bible either do not read it or do not understand its contents. How can we motivate them to use the Bible as a practical guide in their life?

2 In December we will offer the book *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* Where interest is found, we may also offer the Bible translation that has benefited us for the past 47 years—the *New World Translation.* This can be done by illustrating its clear, modern speech. (See *"All Scripture"* book, page 328, paragraph 6.) We will demonstrate our keen appreciation for this gift from Jehovah by enthusiastically helping others to accept the Bible as God's guide for all people.

3 ***You could introduce a presentation by using the tract "Why You Can Trust the Bible." You might say:***

■ "Even though the Bible is available to over 90 percent of the world's population, few people regularly read it. What do you think is the reason?" Read the first two paragraphs of the tract, along with 2 Timothy 3:16. Offer the *God's Word* book. If the book is accepted, mention the donation arrangement. If refused, ask the householder to read the rest of the tract. Highlight the final subheading, "Foretelling the Future."

4 ***When returning to people with whom you left the tract "Why You Can Trust the Bible," you might try this:***

■ After reintroducing yourself, read the last two paragraphs of the tract. Ask the householder if he ever considered the possibility of living forever on earth. After he responds, say: "Jehovah's Witnesses are certain that all the prophecies found in the Bible will be fulfilled, including the ones that predict a wonderful future for all people who meet God's requirements." Show the illustration on page 13 in the *Require* brochure, turn back to lesson 5, and offer to discuss the answers to the listed questions, thus starting a study.

5 ***In territory where people are religious, you might try this initial approach:***

■ "We are encouraging greater respect for the Bible. Many families have a Bible, but they seldom consult it when they are having serious problems. Have you noticed this? [Allow for response.] Perhaps they believe that the Bible is outdated. This book, *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?*, gives convincing proof that the Bible is scientifically accurate and that it provides practical solutions for today's pressing problems." Highlight a few points from chapter 8 or chapter 12 of the book, and then offer it.

6 ***When following up a placement of the "God's Word" book, you could say:***

■ "When I visited you last, we discussed how the Bible helps solve today's complex problems. Those who have accepted it as God's Word have also been helped to live happier, more contented lives. I would like to show you one of the practical Bible principles that is explained in the book I left you." Discuss one of the Scriptural principles found in chapter 12, paragraphs 3-6, and conclude by reading paragraph 7. If interest is shown, offer a study either in the *Knowledge* book or in the *Require* brochure.

7 ***The following presentation may interest older people:***

■ "There was a time when the Bible was read in most homes and when families lived by its principles. Was it so in your family? [Allow for response.] Today it seems that many are too distracted to devote time to Bible reading or they feel that its moral principles are old-fashioned. Chapter 13 of this book, *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?*, presents three true-life experiences of individuals whose lives changed for the better after studying the Bible. If you would like to read how the power of God's Word helped them, I will be happy to leave this book with you."

8 ***On the return visit, you could say:***

■ "When we last spoke, we agreed that the Bible's moral principles are being ignored in today's society. Should that disregard concern us? [Allow for response.] Jesus Christ placed a high value on taking in Bible knowledge." Read John 17:3. Then share paragraph 5 of chapter 1 in the *Knowledge* book. Explain our free Bible study program, and offer to demonstrate it.

9 Pray that Jehovah will bless all your efforts to turn attention to the Bible—God's guide for all people.